The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21 Issue 1 P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 January 1992, 16 Pages

Fife ready to lead tribe into new era

A new era begins for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

More than 1,000 people gathered in unseasonably warm weather to witness the inauguration of Principal Chief Bill Fife Jan. 4, in Okmulgee.

Fife becomes only the second chief elected by the Muscogee Nation since Oklahoma statehood.

Also inaugurated at the Jan. 4 ceremony were Second Chief Shelly Crow and members of the National Council.

Fife told a crowd of supporters, mekkos, chiefs, and politicians, that he does have a specific agenda with goals and ideals.

''I am inspired to strengthen our tribal government and I will puruse with vigor a more efficient executive branch, to restore program and financial accountability and to promote fair and reasonable policies that affect you and the tribe as a whole,'' said Fife in his-inaugural address.

Though there is much work in making the tribal government an effective, positive presence for its citizens, Fife said he remains confident and that he would rely on the strength of a united Muscogee people.

Fife assured the people that there will be change and that he is ready to lead.

''In the next four years, you will see changes - positive changes. We have a whole nation of people who are ready and willing to make this government work.

''I feel that we, the Muscogee people can achieve any goal. I feel that our nation - because of the vitality and endurance of its people - is prepared to the meet the challenges of this decade.''

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Principal Chief Bill Fife salutes the flag during the opening of the inauguration.

Miracle child overcomes odds

Story and photo by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Suffering from an intraventricular cerebral hemorrhage -- a weakened blood vessel which burst -- she underwent brain surgery

Paula Freeman wants to be a writer when she grows up.

''I want my snow man to walk today,'' began her first book, authored at age six.

Only 2 years later, her chances of reaching adulthood became very slim. Paula's short life almost came to an end as she lay comatose for nearly three weeks.

When she awoke, the ability to walk is what she wanted most for herself.

please see FREEMAN page 11

90
adio flyer

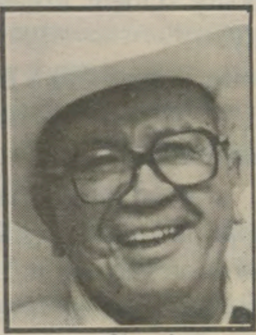
Paula Freeman

Council chooses Cloud as speaker

OKMULGEE -- The 1992-93 Muscogee (Creek) National Council chose Clarence Cloud of Bristow, to be its speaker for the next session, at a special meeting Jan 4.

The 31-member tribal legislature went into special session after taking the oath of office at the inauguration ceremony also held Jan. 4.

Cloud said he was honored his peers named him speaker.



Cloud

please see CLOUD, page 11

Letters to the Editor

Area readers express thanks

Editor:

Members of the Deep Fork Hillabee Baptist Church would like to thank everyone who attended its recent Indian taco dinner at the Checotah Indian Community bingo hall.

Joe Fox, Checotah

Editor:

The Checotah Indian Community bingo and smokeshop employees wish all Creek citizens a happy new year.

Todd Kaulay, Checotah

Editor:

I would like to thank the Checotah Indian Community social services program for appropriating money enabling me to complete my high school education at Okmulgee Christian Academy. With my diploma I will be able to fulfill my goal of joining the U.S. Army full-time. On June 3, 1992 I will be stationed in Germany.

Jeremy Fairchilds, Checotah

Editor:

I would like to thank McIntosh District Representative Tommy Newton and the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for funding my expenses to the Future Homemakers of America national leadership meeting held in Dallas, Texas.

Jason Fairchilds, Checotah

Editor:

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for all family, friends and organizations that offered us prayers, money and food during the time of our daughter's illness.

We would like to offer special thanks to Little Cussetah Baptist Church members, Eufaula Indian Community, the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Sapulpa citizens Betty Foster and Al Pulver, for organizing a benefit supper and gospel singing, the Sapulpa High School Indian Club, Northeastern State University student Robert Coffey and his fraternity.

Doug, Loretta and Paula Freeman, Sapulpa

Editor:

I wold like to thank all of the people who supported me financially, prayerfully and with their votes in my bid for second chief. It has been my privilege to serve you.

Tony Hale, Okmulgee

Muskogee reader praises local precinct workers

Editor:

While working in the Muskogee District precinct during the recent tribal election, I was in contact with the Creek Nation Election Board several times, and I truly believe the board should be commended for the great job they accomplished.

I saw the tireless and devoted effort they put forth in making things work as smoothly as they possibly could - mountians of paper work involved, telephone calls, etc. When tempers and emotions could have been strained to their breaking point, they were standing tall at the end.

I believe we can say ''well done,'' and be thankful for the work that was done by the Creek Nation Election Board.

Jerry Byrd, Muskogee

CN Hospital staff says thanks

Editor:

The employees of Creek Nation Community Hospital would like to express our appreciation to everyone who helped with our Angel Tree. Through the combined efforts of individuals, local agencies, and our hospital staff, 210 children had a brighter Christmas. We wish each and everyone of you a happy, healthy New Year.

Community hospital staff, Okemah

Former Council representative offers intrepretation and thanks

Editor:

In regards to Mr. Jesse A Jones Jr. of Coffeyville, Kan. who expressed his concerns in the December 1991 issue of MNN's campaign gratitude section, there is much validity to his statements. I, too, was a victim of the court's decision to disregard the absentee votes of the October 1991 primary election. Being a National Council incumbent candidate for Seat B of the Wagoner District, I won the primary election 128 to 109. However, when the court threw out the absentee votes then I lost by 88 to 60. True, the absentee voters and I were wronged by the court.

Using the election laws, NCA 81-82, it appears the court based their decision on Section 1015 COUNTING PROCEDURES, (d) ''At 7:00 p.m. when said polls close, absentee count results shall be posted.'' The court emphasized the word SHALL in their decision. Apparently, throughout the country, there have been several legal cases involving the usage of the word SHALL. In Barron's Law Dictionary, SHALL is defined as ``often used to denote an obligation or direction to do some act; however, it is sometimes considered to be permissive, and to mean the same as the word ''may,...'' And in Black's Law Dictionary SHALL is generally

please see **LETTERS**, page 3

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News,* guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News* , its advisors or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address for confirmation.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece. *The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla. 74447.

The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700, (918) 758-0824

Communications Department
Managing editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Adminstrative assistant: Anita Freeman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud

The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times are subject to change at the station's discretion):
KWSH-Wewoka, am 1260, Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sundays, 9 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 p.m.

More letters from readers

continued from page 2

imperative or mandatory...but may be construed as merely permissive or directory (as equivalent to ''may''), to carry out the legislative intention...''

Nevertheless, the word shall is not defined in the election laws and could be interpreted in either sense - imperative/mandatory or permissive. Apparently, the court chose to use the imperative/mandatory sense.

From what I heard in the previous Council meeting, Mr. Fife initiated and/or supported the amendment to the election laws, Section 1015 which included paragraph (d) as previously stated above, prior to the primary election of 1989. (Former) Chief (Claude) Cox vetoed the bill, but it became an ordinance when the veto was overridden by the Council.

Aside from the 1991 election controversy, I want to take this opportunity to thank the voters of the Wagoner District for their support in the 1989 elections and the 1991 primary election. My two year term was quite an experience in learning about the people, Indian laws, and the many programs offered within the tribe. Also, it was a pleasure getting to know and work with some of the Creek Nation employees - there are many knowledgeable and experienced employees.

Lastly, thanks to Helen Chupco, a longtime Muskogee District Rep., for her guidance in teaching me the ''ropes'' as a new Council member; and, thanks to Cox for his kindness and encouragement. As you know, Cox has been the backbone of our tribe in establishing it as one of the most progressive and successful tribes in the country. I wish him the best in his retirement.

Helen Duncan, Coweta

Glenpool reader responds to earlier report

Editor:

In your November issue, in the chartered community news section, something was printed under the Glenpool Creek Indian Community heading that was a twisted truth. An allegation of misconduct was made against the secretary of the board in Glenpool, Chiquita Smith.

However, a protest of misconduct by three board members against another board member should not be ruled as meritorious and not by the same members who brought the complaint. To me and most reasonable persons, it looked like a conflict of interest for them to make such a ruling. What occurred was more of a character assassination. An independent panel separate from the GCIC board should have looked into the allegations. The board member who was expelled, Chiquita Smith, should have had an impartial forum in which to refute the charges. To add insult to injury, close to 10 new members joined the community at the Nov. 12 meeting, who just happened to be family and friends of Ken Childers, some not even residing in the GCIC district. The board rubber stamped their own findings and with the ''new voting members'' voted to expel Mrs. Smith from the board. The GCIC was witness to a lynching in every manner but the rope.

M.A. Tapscott, Glenpool

Mvskoke artist recalls years of tribal work

Editor:

I am retired from the election precinct work as of Dec. 7. I have worked with former Chief Claude Cox since he's been in office. Replacing me is Mrs. Franklin Diana Lowe, who was put on (poll duty) by the Creek National Council.

I have enjoyed working with all the Indian people. I will still work for the Indian people, when and where I am needed, because the Indian people are my people. The first year, I worked in the precinct, I was elected to represent Nuyaka tribal ground. I still have the paper that Phillip Deere (then chairman of Nuyaka ground and Frances Lowe, secretary) had signed for me. I hope I have worked to fulfill my part.

I was chosen because I was able to speak both (Creek and English).

Also in the past, I have worked for the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program in Castle Schools and in Okemah, under Sam Holman, an Indian educator from Oklahoma City.

Gary Robinson selected me to make a video tape on Indian arts and crafts for Creek Nation. Which, in turn, led me to Willie Smite of Oklahoma City. Through the Indian arts and crafts, Willie Smite put me in the ''Indian Hall of Fame,'' in Oklahoma City.

Now, I am under the supervision of Dayna Lee of the ''Arts Council of Oklahoma,'' representing the Indian people and Creek Nation. I am telling you these things, past and present, to let you know I will always try to be ready to answer an Indian's call in the area where I could help and be needed. I ask for your prayers and I thank all the people who have helped me. Thank you. I am of the Wind Clan and belong to Nuyaka Tribal Ground.

Christine Henneha, Okemah

Glenpool chair reports recent community activities

Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Glenpool Indian Community Board of Directors for their efforts toward community activities. They solicited toys and gifts for the children's Christmas party, which included a magician, toy walk, Christmas carolling, candy sacks, and hot dogs. Santa Claus was also there to greet the 100 participants. A Christmas dinner, with gifts, was held for approximately 70 senior citizens. We wish to thank the Rev. Jimmy Alexander, Woodrow Haney, Chief Bill Fife, *Second Chief Shelly Crow, and the* National Council members for participating and attending this honorary dinner. During the Christmas holidays, the board of directors donated gifts and cookies to four churches, and provided five food baskets to the needy.

On New Years Eve, a traditional stomp dance was held in the activity building with over 200 people in attendance.

The board recently approved a contract to build a smoke shop in the community center. This economic development project will provide revenue for our community.

The board also met with an Indian youth council representative to begin work on a youth project to be housed in the activity building.

Also in December, the board met with Lighthorse Chief Barton Williams for advice on how to recover missing community property and funds.

The community has progressed immensely since the removal of the former secretary, Chiquita Smith. I wish to thank the community members for their action to remedy that then existing problem.

To the board of directors, Virginia Nichwander, Cheri Haney, Don Cahwee, Billie Childers, it is an honor for me to serve with you. Keep up the good work.

Ken Childers, Glenpool

Council sets election for Tulsa, Okmulgee districts

Thomas in, full Council seated in February

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council set a Feb. 1 date for run-off elections in Okmulgee and Tulsa districts, ending months of controversy over tribal primary election results.

The tribal Supreme Court ordered elections held after a contempt hearing for the Creek Nation Election Board. Members Phyllis Warrington, Mary Sue Peak and Susanna Willits were cited for failure to comply with a Nov. 8 court order.

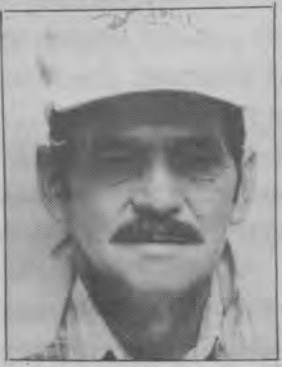
The November order directed the board to declare Alexander Thomas the winner in the Wagoner District Seat B contest for Council. The order also called for run-off elections in contests for Okmulgee and Tulsa districts, both for seat F.

Those contests pit A.D. Ellis against James Hale, in Okmulgee and Okemah Randall and incumbent Donna Rhodes, in Tulsa. The court ordered the contempt hearing after the board certified election results for seats in Okmulgee, Tulsa and Wagoner districts. That certification did not adhere to the court's November order.

At the Dec. 23 hearing however, the Court dismissed contempt charges with assurance from the board that it would comply with the court's order. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the regular Tulsa and Okmulgee precincts.

Okmulgee District Seat F

A.D. Ellis, 55, of the Turtle Clan and Concharty Tribal Town and is a Concharty Methodist Church member.



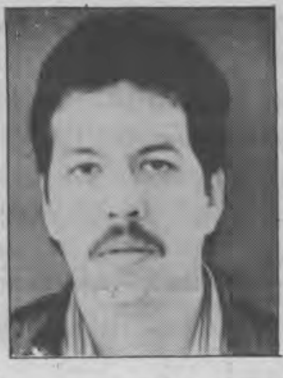
Political\professional experience: U.S. Air Force veteran; retired Teamsters Union; owner and operator of Southwest Mower Supply, State Highway 16 and Bixby Road.

To my friends, supporters and Creek Nation citizens of the Okmulgee District, a belated thank you. Your support and vote during the primary election is greatly appreciated.

After much controversy and many weeks of waiting, we are finally going to have a special election Feb. 1, to decide the representative for Seat F, Okmulgee District. I have tried to contact as many people in this district as I can, but I know I missed many. Hopefully, in the next few weeks, we will secure the support of many more. Please get out and vote to elect the candidate whom you think will do the most good for the most people. I represent no special group or special interest and I will represent the Creek and Euchee people with their interest first and foremost.

As most of you know by now, I will be a very active representative, district wide and not only at election time. Whether or not Okmulgee District citizens vote for me, they should feel free to voice their opinions. I will respect their views. Mvto.

James Hale, 34, of the Deer Clan and Tuckabatchee Tribal Town is a member of the Northside Assembly of God.



Political\professional experience: Okmulgee Indian Community member.

I am seeking election as Okmulgee District representative, with totally objective views on issues and not personalities. I will voice the concerns of the Okmulgee District Creek citizens without partiality. If elected, I will do my best to represent you to the best of my ability. Among my concerns are job opportunities for Creeks. I am willing to support a bill or projects that address this important issue.

Tulsa District Seat F

Okema Boudinot Randall of the Deer Clan and Koweta Tribal Town and is a Broken Arrow Methodist Church member.

Political\professional experience: vice chair, Tulsa Creek Indian Community; Oklahoma Indian Affairs Executive Committee; Intertribal Club of Tulsa; chair, Broken Arrow Indian Club; Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women; retired executive secretary, American Airlines; 1992 appointee to the Tulsa County Commissioners, Greater Indian Affairs Commission (three-year term); an honoree of the All Nations Indian Youth, selected as one of two elder role models of the year; Kihekah Steh Club, Skiatook Indian club.

I will diligently pursue full representation of a voice for all of the Muscogee (Creek) people of Tulsa. I will insist on employment of qualified Creek personnel for administrative positions, propose fringe benefits for bingo hall employees and advocate youth programs and educational opportunities for our future leaders. Ever-rising tuition costs and price of books require additional funding. I will uphold and instill the importance of our traditional ceremonial grounds, tribal towns and culture.

Donna Rhodes of the Tiger Clan and Tuckabatchee Tribal Town.

Political\professional experience: 2-term Tulsa District rep.; chair, Council Human Development Committee; employed with the American Red Cross Tulsa Regional Office.

With the election of a new chief, another era offers more progression for our tribe in education, which I have been involved with for over 20 years at the local, state and national levels.

I'm seeking a third term as a National Council representative, Tulsa District Seat F.

Since I've been on the Council, we have raised the priority of education from 10 percent of the tribal budget to 25 percent.

I sponsored a bill for payment of books for those working on graduate degrees. I co-sponsored the incentive gr for college students who have a three point grade average or better, to receive extra monies.

I've worked with both the Tulsa and Glenpool Indian communities and supported bills to fund them as centers for social services, along with other representatives from Tulsa. I will continue to work with them and support them.

I am presently serving on the National Indian Education Association Board of Directors (past president 1990-91), the Oklahoma Council on Indian Education and am the northeast representative for George Washington University's Indian Advisory Board. I have chaired the Council's Human Development Committee, which education comes under, for the past two years. I'm also a delegate to the White House Conference on Indian Education.

I feel that I am well qualified to be a Council representative and (I) am seeking your support and vote Feb. 1.

Communities relax after Christmas activities

Checotah

-- Checotah Indian Community's Santa Claus gave presents away to around 200 children attending its Christmas party.

-- The community members would like to thank Leroy Jacobs for being Santa, said Brenda Phillips, community reporter.

Eufaula

-- Fifteen elders from the Eufaula Indian Community were taken on a tour of Christmas lights around the city of Tulsa.

-- Elders were also taken to the Williams Center where they ate and watched the ice skaters, Jerry Francis, community activity coordinator, said.

Weleetka

Weleetka Indian Community children entertained community members with songs and music at their recent Christmas program. All 100 in attendance received Christmas sacks.

Glenpool

-- Glenpool Indian Community is accepting applications for three positions in its smokeshop. The position of smokeshop manager will be full-time. Bookkeeping, ordering and the supervision of two part-time clerks entail job duties. Two part-time clerk positions will also be filled. Applications will be taken from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applicants must be 18 and over. Creek preference.

-- Mocassin, leatherwork and basket weaving classes will be offered from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Monday and Thursday nights.

-- Community board of irectors report their Christmas dinner a success. They would like to thank Target stores, Taylor Grocery, the Marines Division and Jess Kelly for donations made to the community. The community also thanks Principal Chief Fife and Second Chief Crow and the National Council for their attendance at its Christmas dinner.

-- On Jan. 6, smokeshop renovations began in the meeting room of the community center.

The board is currently working on the establishment of a youth program that will be housed in the community activity building. The project will focus on the educational and individual needs of its youth.

Wetumka

-- Wetumka Indian Community will hold its election of officers at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3. The community is holding a fundraising supper at 6 p.m., Jan. 18. The all-you-can-eat chili supper will cost $3.50, a drink and dessert is included.

Koweta

-- All 65 Koweta Indian Community members attending its Christmas dinner received gifts as well as sacks of candy.

Kellyville

-- Over 1,500 Creeks recently attended a victory dance held at the Kellyville Indian Community Center for Principal Chief Fife and Second Chief Crow. Twenty-one ceremonial grounds were represented.

Beggs

The winner of Beggs Indian Community's handmade quilt is Johnny Wilson, Okmulgee. The community donated two Christmas food baskets to community members Leketta Thompson and Elizabeth Hanson.

Duck Creek

-- Duck Creek Indian Community gave gifts and Christmas sacks to around 140 individuals that attended its Christmas dinner.

-- The winner of the community's door prize was Karen Brown, Liberty Mounds; she won a turkey.

-- The community would like to thank everyone that attended, said Nancy Jo Harry, community vice-chair.

Okemah

-- Okemah Indian Community's monthly bingo games will be discontinued until March or April, said Rebecca Stroud, community member.

-- Stroud reports at least 200 children attended the community's Christmas festivities. All children were given a present. All in attendance received Christmas sacks. Christmas bags were also given to area resthome elders.

Okmulgee

-- Okmulgee Indian Community is still funding the purchase of athletic equipment for eligible community childern meeting income guidelines.

-- Christmas sacks, and either socks, gloves, a stocking cap, or a scarve were given to the 125 people attending the community's Christmas dinner. Five turkeys and five hams were also given away as door prizes.

-- The community also assisted one Creek Nation Headstart (Okmulgee) family through the donation of a food basket.

-- The community presented former Principal Chief Claude Cox and his wife, Lilly, with a weekend trip to Shangri La, Afton.

Tulsa

-- Tulsa Indian Community would like to thank all food donors and volunteers contributing to the success of its Christmas activities. Around 200 people attended its Christmas dinner.

Sapulpa

-- Christmas dinner for 70 Sapulpa Indian Community members included take-home Christmas sacks. The community also delivered fruit baskets to several elders that were unable to attend the dinner. Those elders are: Emma Cutburth, Rose Woodward, Evelyn Dingham and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Williams.

Okfuskee

-- Okfuskee Indian Community members recently combined their efforts to supply many elders with fire wood for the winter.

Around 24 ricks of wood were cut and delivered to 24 elder's homes. Those who volunteered are: Ernest McPerryman, George Deeringwater, Curtis Harjo, Phil and Gerald Phillips, Lewis and Oscar Walters, Barney, Paul, Jeff and Molly Harjochee, Simmer, Johnny, Sagey, Rita and Joe Hicks

-- The community will hold a food bingo at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25. A pack of 21 games costs $3.50.

-- The community's Christmas dinner and program had an attendance of 86. Those attending received a candy sack.

-- Celebrating birthdays in December were Ernest McPerryman and Shelley and Lorene Hicks.

-- Members with January birthdays are Curtis Harjo, Molly Harjochee, Gerald Phillips and Susie Gammill.

-- The community wishes member Bessie Cooper a fast recovery.

Submit your ceremonial ground, church and community news to :
Stephanie Berryhill,
c\o The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700

Mvskoke producer Peggy Berryhill coordinates production

National Public Radio begins ''Spirits'' series

The first radio documentary series about Native American history and culture, ''Spirits of the Present: The Legacy From Native America,'' comes to public radio stations nationwide beginning January 1992. The 13 half-hour programs will air on more than 180 public radio stations, including 12 stations in the top 20 markets.

The series is hosted by American Indian actress Tantoo Cardinal, known for her performance as the wife of Kicking Bird in the Academy Award-winning film ''Dances With Wolves''.

Original music for the 'Spirits of the Present'' series was composed by singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie, a Canadian Cree.

The series is a co-production of Radio Smithsonian at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium in Lincoln, Neb. It is distributed nationwide by American Public Radio (APR).

''The creation of 'Spirits of the Present' presented us with a daunting challenge -- how to look at 500 years of history, of more than 500 tribes, with over 500 different languages,'' says coordinating producer Peggy Berryhill, a member of the Muskogee Nation.

The ``Spirits'' production team began by consulting a group of advisors from native American communities.

The advisory group suggested that the series offer an exploration of different topics as told from the viewpoint of contemporary Indian people. It was decided that each program would contain the voices of elders, share the history of lesser-known tribes, and emphasize the accomplishments of Indians today.

The nature of oral traditions and their importance within Indian culture made the medium of radio especially appropriate for revealing the Indian historical record.

Twelve independent radio producers travelled to locations throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean to gather material for the series. They collected field recordings from over 40 different tribal groups.

Because producers bring their unique brand of creativity to a subject, each program reflects the style and vision of its producer Berryhill said.

Tribal dental clinics begin screenings for orthodontics

SAPULPA -- Screenings for students and patients ages 10 to 19, seeking orthodontic treatment will be held Jan. 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Eufaula, Okmulgee and Sapulpa dental clinics.

The following criteria are being used to insure that quality service is delivered, in a fair and equitable manner, to those patients in the greatest need of orthodontic care.

These criteria will also assist in providing the greatest number of services to the greatest number of youth, who are willing to maintain their oral health environment, (prior to, during, and after treatment).

The following standards will be adhered to in the strictest sense:

-- to qualify for treatment, a patient must be a Creek citizen who is included upon the Creek rolls.

-- the patient must show a willingness and commitment to undergo the lengthy treatment by achieving and maintaining an oral health condition commensurate with orthodontic care.

-- the patient must present himself to one of the Creek Nation Dental Clinics, (Eufaula, Okmulgee, Sapulpa), for evaluation and selection into the program.

-- the orthodontic difficulty must consist of a functional malocclusion as opposed to an esthetics or cosmetic problem.

-- the patient must be willing to undergo and complete the comprehensive treatment regime which may require 24-30 months of treatment.

-- if the patient fails to maintain the required oral health status, or keep the required appointments, they will be dropped from the program and given the option to complete treatment at their own expense.

-- if the patient has any third-party coverage (eg. insurance), those resources will be used to assist the payment of the treatment.

Creek Nation dental responsibilites:

-- the required orthodontic services will be provided by a licensed orthodontist.

-- letters will be directed to orthodontists in the area for bids. The bids will be studied to determine appropriate avenues of treatment.

-- payment will be made directly to the contracting orthodontic provider from the health services account.

-- to eliminate transportation as a barrier, transportation services from CHR's and Title IV - Indian Education, will be requested.

-- the dental officers will meet regularly to objectively determine which cases are the most severe.

This process will continue until all funds are obligated.

Tribe begins energy assistance and eyeglass programs

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services will accept applications for energy assistance programs at loactions in each district.

The federally-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is for Indians 50 and over. The tribally-funded home energy assistance program is for Creek citizens 60 and over.

Applicants for either program should be able to document the following:

-- Indian descent (Certificate Degree of Indian Blood) card;

-- Creek tribal enrollment;

-- household income (check stubs, Aid to Families with Dependent Children receipts, social security statements, etc.); and

-- residency (applicants for either program must reside within Creek Nation jurisdictional boundaries).

Participation in either program is mutually exclusive. Also, one cannot receive federal or tribal energy assistance if he or she has received energy assistance from the state Department of Health and Human Services, any tribal hardship program or community based assistance since October 1991.

For more information, contact the tribal social services or Community Health Representatives department at 756-8700.

Also, the tribe's CHR department will accept applications for the eyeglass assistance program during the same time applications are being accepted for the energy assistance pro-

please see **PROGRAMS**, page 11

Tribal health systems seeking experienced professionals

OKEMAH -- The Creek Nation Health System is seeking a personnel director, a development officer, a special projects assistant, health systems administrator and a purchasing clerk. Listed are brief job descriptions and the minimum qualifications for each position.

Personnel director - Responsible for the implementation of all personnel policies and procedures approved by the Creek Nation Hospital and Clinics Board. Advises administrator of appropriateness of current and proposed policies and procedures in regard to compliance with federal, state and local laws.

The minimum education requirement is a bachelor's degree in personnel management and a minimum of two years personnel management experience. Up to five years of personnel management experience may be substituted for the absence of a bachelor's degree.

Development officer - Participates in long and short-term strategic planning of the health system to help identify programs and services that would provide better health care to the patient population served. Researches potential funding sources at the federal, state and tribal level.

The minimum education requirement is a master's degree in public health and two years of health care development experience or a bachelor's degree in appropriate area plus five years health care development experience.

Special projects assistant - Serves as secretary to the development officer with assistance provided as required on grant proposals and clerical duties.

The minimum education requirement is a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma. Typing requirement is 60 words per minute.

Purchasing clerk - Assists purchasing supervisor in all office/clerical and departmental duties as required by the purchasing department. Typing and clerical work involved.

Minimum requirements include knowledge of general office practices, typing and filing. Experience in hospital supply functions or other purchasing operations.

Health systems administrator - Administrative responsibility for planning, organizing, and initiating a comprehensive health services program consisting of several major health programs including the clinics, contract medical care and field health service and has the primary responsibility for working with the Indian people served by the health systems.

Minimum requirements include a master's degree and two years administrative experience or a bachelor's degree in an appropriate area plus five years experience.

Contact the Creek Nation Health System at the Creek Nation Community Hospital, P.O. Box 228, Okemah, OK, 74859.

OSU-Okmulgee offering unique classes

OKMULGEE -- The Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee Small Business Occupations program is recognized nation-wide for its unique approach to education and its success rate in job placement for its graduates.

The program offers shoe, boot and saddle repair and design, jewelry technology, watch and micro-instrumentation repair and upholstery design and restorartion.

''The programs emphasize a need for students to develop skills that allow them to be creative and unique and make a living,'' said Jerry Wilson, department head.

Wilson, a member of the Muscogee Nation, said the program is geared for both the tradtional and non-traditional students.

Wilson also said the program could provide skills and training that could be used at the community level for economic development projects.

For more information, contact the small business cccupations department at (918) 756-6211 or write the university at 1801 E. 4th St., Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

Sports

Hanna IC to hold winter pool and horseshoe tournaments

HANNA -- Hanna Indian Community is holding an eight-ball pool tournament, Jan. 18. No pre-registration is involved. Youth may sign-up and pay the $3 registration fee that day.

Coeds, ages 12 and under, should register from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Youth, ages 13 through 15, sign-up from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. Teenagers, ages 16 through 18, enter from 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. The tournament is open to the first 16 that sign-up, in each category.

The proceeds contribute to the funding of the community's all-sports festival, held in August.

Youth must have a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card to participate. First, second and third place plaques will be awarded.

The community is also holding a horseshoe tournament Jan. 25.

Adults may sign-up and pay the $2 entry fee at 11 a.m. The tournament will begin at 12 p.m. Single men, single women, double men, and coed are the tournament categories.

Religion in brief

Senior Methodists to meet

Northeastern District Senior Methodist Quarterly meeting will be held Jan. 19, at Salt Creek United Methodist Church, west of Wetumka. All are invited to the business meeting.

Arbeka to hold food bingo

ARBEKA -- Arbeka Ceremonial Ground is holding a food bingo game beginning 7 p.m., Jan. 18 at the ground's community center.

Concession sales will begin at 6 p.m.

University of Tulsa seeking associate chaplain

The University of Tulsa is seeking an associate university chaplain. The position is a twelve month, renewable appointment beginning July 1, 1992. The associate chaplain will develop ministries which support affiliated campus ministers and their ministries at the university, as well as initiating other forms of outreach to the campus. If credentials and qualifications warrant, the associate university chaplain may be asked to offer occasional courses in the university curriculum.

The associate university chaplain must be a member in good standing of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); have a bachelors degree and a Master's of Divinity (or its equivalent), with advanced professional or academic degrees preferred; have experience or significant promise in campus ministry.

Salary and benefits are competitive. Send a resume or vitae with the names and addresses of three references by Jan. 30, 1992 to:

Dr. Henry F. Knight, University Chaplain, The University of Tulsa, 600 S. College, Tulsa, OK 74104-3189.

Tribal treasury reports quarterly financial statement

The Creek Nation's Office of the Treasury, as one of it's major functions, produces a series of monthly budgetary and general ledger reports on all activities and programs of the Creek Nation. These reports are made available to appropriate management personnel and other interested parties.

The Office of the Treasury maintains an accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for fund accounting in order to meet the standards and the reporting requirements of the Government Finance Officers Association and the reporting requirements as established under the federal A-128 Single Audit Act.

Reports prepared under these standards tend to be technical and complex by nature, which may require a more in-depth understanding of other entries.

In order to keep tribal members cognizant of the financial status of the Creek Nation, a summary financial statement is prepared and published quarterly. This statement has been prepared on a cash basis, to reflect receipts and expenditures accumulated on year-to-date basis.

A detailed explanation of the reading of this statement is as follows:

PROGRAM NAME: Provides the titles of the various programs and activities of the Creek Nation.

RECEIPTS: Provides a year to date total of all cash collected for this program.

BUDGET: Provides the approved budget for the current fiscal year, for federal and tribal funds.

ENCUMBERED FUNDS: Provides totals for all obligations incurred and paid at the date of report.

UNENCUMBERED FUNDS: This gives the balance of the budget minus encumbered funds, minus expended funds. This is the balance available the remainder of the fiscal year.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement quarter ending Dec. 31, 1991

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
General Taxes & License	263,776	1,019,194	18,096	315,936	685,162
Administration/Indirect	238,182	1,553,675	58,560	456,448	1,038,667
Consumer Loans	101,169	95,293	0	20,872	74,421
Communications	274,972	272,200	1,675	100,887	169,638
Creek Nation Bingo	794,443	2,078,087	14,366	1,220,215	843,506
1992 Tribal Budget	208,150	1,178,510	6,422	224,660	947,428
JTPA 1991	133,131	439,739	163	146,616	292,960
Admin. on Aging	6,807	19,337	0	5,909	13,428
HHS–Head Start '91	116,170	217,124	23,848	121,420	71,856
Admin on Aging '91	10,264	83,748	717	15,166	67,865
Com. Ser. Block Grant '9	0	774	0	0	774
L.I.H.E.A.P. '91	2,158	3,319	5	694	2,620
Title IV–B Child. Serv.	2,698	3,606	0	2,698	908
Homeless Assist. Act '	0	2	0	0	2
Family Violence Prevent.	600	21,074	0	600	20,474
HHS Head Start 1992	14,334	612,249	5,182	32,991	574,076
Title IV–B Child. Serv.	0	51,743	0	0	51,743
Com.Dev.Block Grant '8	8,497	0	0	0	0
Com.Dev.Block Grant '9	74,497	190,995	42,101	73,588	75,306
1992 Food Distribution	53,497	262,179	210	73,277	188,692
Admin. on Aging USDA–RE	34,430	54,190	2,736	22,600	28,854
Headstart USDA Reimbur.	8,335	35,635	9,125	14,184	12,326
Creek Nation Court Clerk	32	200	0	200	0
BIA–Adult Vocat. Trng.	1,761	0	0	0	0
BIA–Credit & Finance	15,636	0	0	0	0
BIA–Social Services	531	0	0	0	0
BIA–Eufaula Dorm (Maint)	173	17,400	120	16,385	895
BIA–Indian Chld. Welfare	0	2,043	0	2,043	0
BIA–Adult Education	31,213	135,906	0	41,799	94,107
BIA–Aid to Tribal Govt.	54,862	354,035	1,422	73,063	279,550
BIA–Community Services	16,244	126,710	30	17,850	108,830
BIA–Higher Education	193,835	712,657	216	218,967	493,474
BIA–Natural Resource	64,477	416,546	4,206	89,779	322,561
BIA–Adult Voc. Training	24,441	322,192	295	52,808	269,089
BIA–Employment Assist.	0	20,085	0	1,547	18,538
BIA–JOM Early Childhood	3,195	12,735	0	3,819	8,916
BIA–Agriculture	67,883	231,354	0	57,571	173,783
BIA–Social Services	78,961	411,655	603	101,716	309,336
BIA–Housing	39,289	275,638	27,777	43,738	204,123
BIA–Real Estate Appraisals	26,814	133,480	0	34,139	99,341
BIA–Real Estate Service	46,576	169,750	236	57,626	111,888
BIA–Indian Child Welfare	8,147	147,188	0	8,663	138,525
BIA–Business Dev. Grant	3,717	250,000	0	0	250,000
1992 Eufaula Dormitory	277,961	842,750	16,082	245,282	581,386
CN Community Hospital	0	22,290	2,658	0	19,632
CN Outpatient Clinics	0	5,971	3,638	0	2,333
Alcohol/Substance Abuse	0	6,693	0	3,332	3,361
CN Community Hosp. '89	0	68,545	1,376	0	67,169
Com. Health Rep. '89	55,471	252,238	223	80,704	171,311
'89 Outpatient Clinics	0	29,114	4,998	0	24,116
Community Health Rep.	107,296	702,830	123	97,695	605,012
Tribal–Real Prop. & Fac.	459,860	991,334	1,495	230,461	759,378
Totals	3,924,485	14,854,012	248,704	4,327,948	10,277,360

This statement is published in accordance with NCA 89-37

Creek Nation obituaries

SOLOMON MITCHELL BEAVER

EUFAULA -- Solomon Mitchell Beaver, 34, of Eufaula, died Dec. 19.

Funeral services were held Dec. 23 in the Merritt Funeral Service Chapel.

Revs. Raymond Beaver and Richie Beaver officiated. Pallbearers were Robert, James and Byar Beaver, Mitchell Barnett, Chris Feeling and Mike Lewis. Burial was in the Greenwood Cemetery, under the direction of Merritt Funeral Service.

Beaver was born Sept. 2, 1957, in Tahlequah, to Ray and Hattie Beaver. He graduated from Eufaula High School in May 1976, where he excelled in track. He placed first in his senior year at the Oklahoma State Track Meet in the mile and two mile races. He was a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award in 1976, and is listed in the 1975 and 1976 Editions Prep Track and Field Athletes of the Year. He was awarded numerous medals, ribbons and trophies in athletics. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from May 31, 1976, until May 11, 1978, when he was discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal. He was a member of the Okfuskee Baptist Church where he served as a Sunday school teacher, music director and sponsor of the young people. He was song leader for the district number one rally committee. He was employed with the Aluminum Service Corporation in Checotah.

He is survived by his parents Raymond and Hattie Beaver of the home; four brothers Richie of Saskatchewan, Canada, Robert of Paris, Texas, James of Eufaula and Byar of the home; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, great aunts and uncles.

FANNIE WALKER GIBSON

SAPULPA -- Fannie Walker Gibson, 72, of Sapulpa died Friday, Dec. 27 at her home.

Prayer service was held Dec. 30 at the Smith Funeral Chapel. Funeral services were held Dec. 31 at Pickett Chapel Methodist Church with the Revs. Mike Harjo and Timothy Bigpond officiating.

Burial was in the Simms family cemetery.

Gibson was born July 4, 1919, in Sapulpa, and retired from Bartlett Memorial Medical Center after 28 years. She was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and Pickett Chapel where she was a former youth counselor.

Survivors include: sons Eli, James and Steven Gibson, all of Sapulpa; daughters Sawena Sue Stephens of Sapulpa and Diane Mantzey of Phoenix, Ariz.; sisters Lillie Cox of Okmulgee, Maxine Watashe, Rosie Simms and Majda Simms, all of Sapulpa; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

GERONIMO RANDALL HARJO

OKEMAH -- Services were held Dec. 26 for Geronimo Randall Harjo, 63, Okemah, who died Sunday, Dec. 22, 1991 in Okemah.

He was born on April 8, 1928 in Okemah. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Okemah.

Preceding him in death was his mother Nancy Tiger, and his sister Wanda Wesley.

Surviving him is his father Johnson Harjo of Okemah; seven sisters Betty Whitebird and Deloris Bonidc, both of Oklahoma City, Pauline Levi and Nancy Nibs of Midwest City, Augustine Harjo of Wetumka, Ester Collins of Albuquerque, N.M., Bonnie Sue Thompson of San Francisco, Calif. and Alice B. Roberts of Okemah.

Funeral services were held at the Prairie Springs Baptist Church near Okemah. Revs. Martin Edwards and Bootsie Harjo officiated. Interment was in the family cemetery under the direction of Merritt Funeral Service.

Honorary pallbearers were Kish Whitebird Sr., Roger Herrod, Chubby Anderson and David Underwood.

Active pallbearers were Matthew Henneha, Wallace Burns, Wayne Tiger, Jason Smith, Thomas Jackson, and Kish Whitebird Jr.

JOHN P. JACOBS

HOLDENVILLE -- Memorial services for John Pershing Jacobs were held Dec. 2 at the James R. Dolton Funeral Home chapel with Rev. Bill Worden, pastor of the First Christian Church of Holdenville, and the Rev. George Jesse, pastor of Spring Baptist Church, Sasakwa, officiating.

The city of Holdenville is built upon the Jacobs family original Indian allotment.

Jacobs died Nov. 18 in Oklahoma City Presbyterian Hospital at the age of 73.

He was born Aug. 6, 1918 to Newman and Ella Monahwee Jacobs, a prominent Creek Indian family.

He was married to Carol Whiteley, Nov. 15, 1958 in Wewoka.

Survivors are his widow Carol, of the home; three daughters Ella Jacobs and Johnnie Jacobs, both of Norman, and Mary Jacobs, New York City, N.Y.

NANCY JAMISON

BEGGS -- Funeral services for Nancy Jamison, 99, a lifetime resident of Beggs, were held Dec. 28, at the First Baptist Church South in Beggs. Burial was in the Beggs Cemetery. Rev. Willie Antwine officiated.

She was born August 1, 1892 in Beggs Indian Territory. She was the daughter of Choite and Rachel Postoak Fish.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church South.

Survivors include: two sons Roy Jamison of Arizona and Coleman Jamison of Beggs; and numerous granchildren and great grandchildren.

RANDY LUNSFORD

TULSA -- James Randall (Randy) Lunsford, 31, died Nov. 11, 1991 in Tulsa.

Lunsford had been a Bristow resident most of his life. He was born in Claremore Jan. 3, 1960. He was a machine operator for Bama Pie Co. for seven years. He also worked at Bristow Indian Bingo.

Survivors are: his father Curtis Lunsford, Bristow; mother Bernice Bear Watson, Bristow; three brothers Curtis Daniel Lunsford, Okmulgee, Terry Lunsford, Bristow and Larry Lunsford, Oklahoma City; and two sisters Debbie Hale, Okmulgee, and Kitty Campbell, Bristow.

JEANETTE SCOTT

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Jeanette Scott, 69, of Okemah were held Dec. 30, 1991 at the Park Brothers Funeral Home Chapel in Okemah. Rev. John Tiger officiated with Rev. Thomas Long assisting. Mrs. Scott died Dec. 27 at the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

She was born May 14, 1922 at Weleetka. She was the daughter of David and Cogee Jeffley Harjo. She had resided in Bristow for several years before moving to Okmulgee. She made her home in Okmulgee for the past five years.

She was a member of Springfield Baptist Church at Okemah. She was married to Rufus Scott, who preceded her in death in 1956. She was also preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Mary Jane Ellis of Beggs; one brother Benny Harjo of Okemah; and several nieces and nephews.

Nephews and great-nephews were the pallbearers. Interment was in the Springfield Cemetery.

Creek Nation obituaries

JOHNSON TARPALECHEE

Johnson Tarpalechee, 80, of Okmulgee died at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, Dec. 24, 1991. He was born Aug. 18, 1911. Services were held Dec. 28, 1991 at Big Cussetah United Methodist Church.

He was a member of Big Cussetah United Methodist Church of Morris, an honorary member of the United Methodist Women, and a member of the Retired Senior Methodists. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the 45th Division, Company K, 179th Infantry of Okmulgee.

He was preceded in death by his parents Miller and Nancy Tarpalechee, his wife Nina, and two brothers Yarme and Martin Tarpalechee.

Survivors include: his daughter Debi Johnson; a grandson Mekko Tarpalechee Riley; a grandaughter Meske Chenena Juneau of Okmulgee; sister Mulsey Long of Phoenix, Ariz.; one brother Henry Tarpalechee of Okmulgee, and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Billy Jones, Glen Jones, Floyd Jones, Terry Jones Jr., Edward Tarpalechee, Yarme Tarpalechee, Darrell Tarpalechee, Bobby Jennings and Buddy Beaver.

ALICE MITCHELL HILL

EUFAULA -- Alice Mitchell Hill, 85, of Eufaula died Dec. 24, 1991 at the Norman Regional Hospital, in Norman. Funeral services were held Dec. 28 at the West Eufaula Baptist Church.

Hill was born in Eufaula, May 3, 1906 to Lewis and Billy Cosar Mitchell. She was a member of the West Eufaula Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Jacob Hill, who died in October 1977.

She is survived by a son Richard Leitka of Norman; a sister Leona Mitchell of Tulsa; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Jon Leitka, Joe Leitka, Clem Lewis, Morris Lewis, Tom Pickering and Jeremiah Lewis. Burial was in the Greenwood Cemetery.

WILLIAM GRAHAM DAVIS

OKLAHOMA CITY -- William Graham Davis, 91, of Wewoka died Jan. 6 at Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. Davis was born to Jess and Ella Davis, March 27, 1900 in Okfuskee County near Okemah. Davis was raised in Okfuskee County.

He played professional football as a young man. Davis was a World War II veteran; he served in the U.S. Navy. He lived in California for 29 years, where he retired from the motion picture industry. Davis returned to Wewoka in 1973.

He was a member of the Arbeka Methodist Church, north of Cromwell. He participated in the building of the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka. He was married to Emma Lou Lowe on Oct. 8, 1984.

He is survived by his wife Lou Davis of the home; one son Madison B. Davis of Hobart; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, one sister and one son, Jess Edwin Davis and one grandson, Eddie Davis.

Funeral services were held at Yeager Methodist Church on Jan. 8. Rev. Tom Lowe officiated. Burial was held at the Oakwood Cemetary, Wewoka, under the direction of Hudson Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Merle Berryhill, Charles Franks, Chris Franks, Thomas Lowe, James Lowe and Dwayne Lowe.

Tribute to Kenny Lyn Bunner

**You were our friend.
You were taken away.
You cheered us up when we were sad.
You joked with us
and made us laugh
We were always
glad when you
arrived.
Always with a smile
you said "Hi."
We'll miss your
smile, we'll miss
your walk,
we'll miss the way you talked.
You are a friend to the very end.
Lyn, you'll always have a special place in our hearts.
We love you, and we'll miss you.
Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo Servers - 1991**

Submit obituaries to:
The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Families offer acknowledgements and gratitude

Anderson Berryhill family

We would like to express our appreciation to all family members, neighbors and friends for their support and acts of kindness during the recent loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Your expression of caring through flowers, food, personal calls, sympathy cards, monetary donations, and prayers will always be remembered. We would especially like to thank Charlie Litsey, Creek Nation, Carol and Jack Pendergrass, Eliza Berryhill, Maxine Jackson, McClendon Funeral Home and Creek Chapel Methodist Church.

A special thank you to Rev. Felix Tiger who officiated the services.

Dunn, Wells, Haney families

The family of Joan (Sunny)Dunn would like to say thank you to everyone for their prayers, words of sympathy, flowers and food in our hour of sadness in the passing or our Beloved mother, grandmother and sister.

A special thanks to Creek Nation and to Okmulgee Indian Community and Creek Nation Social Services for their assistance. May God Bless each and everyone of you for your help.

Mary Jane (Scott) Ellis

I would like to thank the church, community, family and friends of Jeanett Scott for the many acts of kindness extended to me in the time of my sorrow. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Tarpalechee family

The family of Johnson Tarpalechee would like to express their sincere gratitude for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, food and all those that were with us in our time of grief. A special thanks to the Mvskoke Vietnam Erea Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which touched us in a special way.

We know that our daddy, brother, uncle touched the lives of many and even though he went home to be with our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve he received the greatest gift ever! Rejoice! MVTO.

Programs

continued from page 7

gram.

Priority will be given to those age 50 and over. Applicants must be able to document heritage, income, residency and have received no Indian Health Service optometry benefits.

Listed at right is the date, time and locations where applications will be taken. Applications for eyeglasses will only be taken until noon.

Dates and locations for energy assistance and eyeglass programs*

Okmulgee District Jan. 15, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Okmulgee Indain Community Center, 2700 N. Miami
Okfuskee District Jan. 16, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Okemah Indian Community Center, 1100 S. Division
Creek District Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Bristow Indian Community Center, 121 W. Lincoln
Wagoner District Jan. 21, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Koweta Indian Community Center, 141 Ben Lumpkin Road
Muskogee Disrict Jan. 22, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Muskogee Indian Comunity Center 111 S. Virgina
Hughes Distrrict Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Holdenville Indian Community Center 416 E. Poplar

Eyeglass applications accepted from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

***Applications for the Tulsa and McIntosh districts were accepted before press time. The news for those districts was broadcast on the MNN radio program and local press.**

Freeman

continued from page 1

which offered little hope of survival.

Last September Paula woke up screaming and unable to move.

''She said she couldn't move and had a headache; she was curled up in a fetal position and passed out,'' said her mother Loretta.

Loretta rushed her to Tulsa Regional Medical Center, which could not treat her. She was then life-flighted to Saint Francis Hospital, where she underwent neurological surgery called ventricular drainage.

''They said she may not make it because there was so much pressure (on her brain),'' said her father Doug, in regard to doctors' comments after her surgery.

The doctors told us ''most of the people [with intraventricular hemorrhaging] die in the emergency room, or are vegetables, or are in a coma. The nurses told us not to expect that much,'' said Loretta.

The couple said support from fellow members of Little Cussetah Baptist Church enabled them to endure Paula's illness.

''We had almost all our church in the waiting room praying for her,'' Doug said.

''The doctors said if we didn't get her in as soon as we did, she wouldn't be living. I think that God was just watching out for everything, because we got her there at the right time.''

After two and one-half weeks, Paula came out of the coma. ''She woke up smiling. She doesn't remember anything at all.''

Her doctors recommended she be sent to Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation in Dallas.

Upon her release from Saint Francis, Paula couldn't walk, or sit up.

''She was just like a little rag doll,'' said Loretta.

After thirty days of rehabilitation, 42 hours per week, Paula left Baylor walking. She currently receives rehabilitation treatment one hour per week at Oakridge Elementary School, Sapulpa, where she is a student.

Doctors are unsure whether the blood vessel weakened over a period of time, or burst suddenly, said Doug.

''There's always a chance the vessel could bleed again, said Loretta.

''I think God is going to heal her all the way. I don't think she's going to have any damage.''

Paula walks with the assistance of a plastic brace on her right leg. A shunt, a tube which drains excess fluid off her brain into her stomach, has been implanted under her skin and will remain through her adulthood.

Paula's classmates welcomed her back to school in early December with a party. The third graders took up a change collection, which totalled around $25, and even sent it to her while she was at Baylor.

Paula's favorite foods are pizza, hamburgers and french fries. Her favorite celebrity is Michael Jackson. Among her hobbies are writing books and drawing. She enjoys sketching as well as playing with Ninja Turtles. Before her illness, Paula liked to play soccer and was a tether ball champ at school. Although Paula insists she is a ''tomgirl,'' she aspires to be an artist and writer.

The Freeman's estimate their hospital bills are in excess of $150,000. Doug, employed at Affiliated Foods, said his employment insurance will cover 80 percent of the cost.

Helen Coon, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Hospital and Clinics Board member, made the Creek National Council aware of the Freeman's financial situation. In October the Council appropriated $3,000 to the Freemans. McIntosh District Representative Tommy Pickering also made the Eufaula Indian Community aware of their situation. The community contributed generously, $5,000 to the family.

''We were planning on selling everything we had. We wouldn't have had a home to come back to if it hadn't been for the Creek Nation and Eufaula (Indian Community.)''

Cloud

continued from page 1

``I want to do some great things for this tribe,'' said Cloud.

Cloud has held many other positions within the Creek Nation, including stints as a Supreme Court Justice, Housing Authority Board member, and a member of the board of directors for the Muscogee County Indian Credit Association.

Cloud has served four successive terms on the Council as a Creek District representative from Bristow. Cloud, 71, is a gentleman farmer.

Tulsa District Representative Jerry Wilson is the new second speaker. Wilson, 39, of Glenpool, is beginning his fourth term on the National Council. Wilson is department head of the Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee Small Business Occupations Program.

Tulsa District Representative Larry Bible, also of Glenpool, is the sergeant-at-arms. He begins his fifth term as a representative. Bible is the City of Glenpool Chief of Police.

Two Council seats remain undecided. Okmulgee and Tulsa districts voters will decide their respective representatives in a Feb. 1 special election.

Ho`tvle hv`se (Wind Month) February

Net'tv-ca'ko SUNDAY	Mv'nte MONDAY	Tu'ste TUESDAY	Net'tvca'kuce-en nvrkvp'v WEDNESDAY	Rv'ste THURSDAY	Fli'te FRIDAY	Nettv-ca'ko-cu'se SATURDAY
■ Listed by date and time are chartered community meetings						1
2	3 Kellyville, 7 p.m. Muskogee, 7:30 p.m. Wetumka, 7 p.m.	4 Tulsa, 6:30 p.m. Okla. City, 7 p.m. Okfuskee, 7 p.m.	5 Beggs, 7 p.m.	6 Okemah, 7 p.m.	7	8
9	10 Sapulpa, 7 p.m. Hanna, 7 p.m. Okmulgee, 7 p.m.	11 Checotah, 6 p.m. Glenpool, 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15
16	17 Bristow, 7 p.m. Holdenville, 7 p.m. Wilson, 7 p.m. Koweta, 7:30 p.m.	18 Dewar, 7:00 p.m.	19	20 Okemah, 7 p.m.	21	22
23 Yardeka, 7:30 p.m.	24 Weleetka, 7 p.m.	25 Duck Creek, 7 p.m.	26	27 Eufaula, 7 p.m.	28	29 National Council Meeting 10 p.m.

MNN February deadline: Jan. 17

Commodity distribution

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Commodity Program makes stops at 12 Indian community centers monthly.

Distribution sites include:

+Hanna	First Thursday
Koweta	First and third Tuesday
Eufaula	First and third Thursday
Okemah	First and third Wednesday
Holdenville	First and third Tuesday
Weleetka	Fourth Tuesday
Wetumka	Second Thursday
Checotah	Second and fourth Thursday
Dewar	Second and fourth Wednesday
Glenpool	First and third Wednesday
*Bristow	First and third Thursday
**Kellyville	First and third Thursday

Times: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* 9 a.m.-noon. + 1- 2 p.m.

** 1 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, or an application, contact the: Commodity Food Distribution Program, Creek Nation Complex, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447, or phone (918) 756-3467.

Tribal phone numbers

Creek Nation Administration

P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700
Fax: (918) 756-3340

Departments/ Extensions

Principal Chief
Bill Fife, 200
Second Chief
Shelly Crow, 202
Policy Analyst
Robert Trepp, 204

National Council

Speaker: Clarence Cloud
P.O. Box 158
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 758-1410, 1415, 1416

Children and Family Services

313 W. Eighth
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-2112

Judicial Branch

P.O. Box 652
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 758-1400 or 1412

Creek Nation Housing Authority

P.O. Box 297
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Phone: (918) 756-8504
Fax: (918) 756-9218

Commodity Warehouse

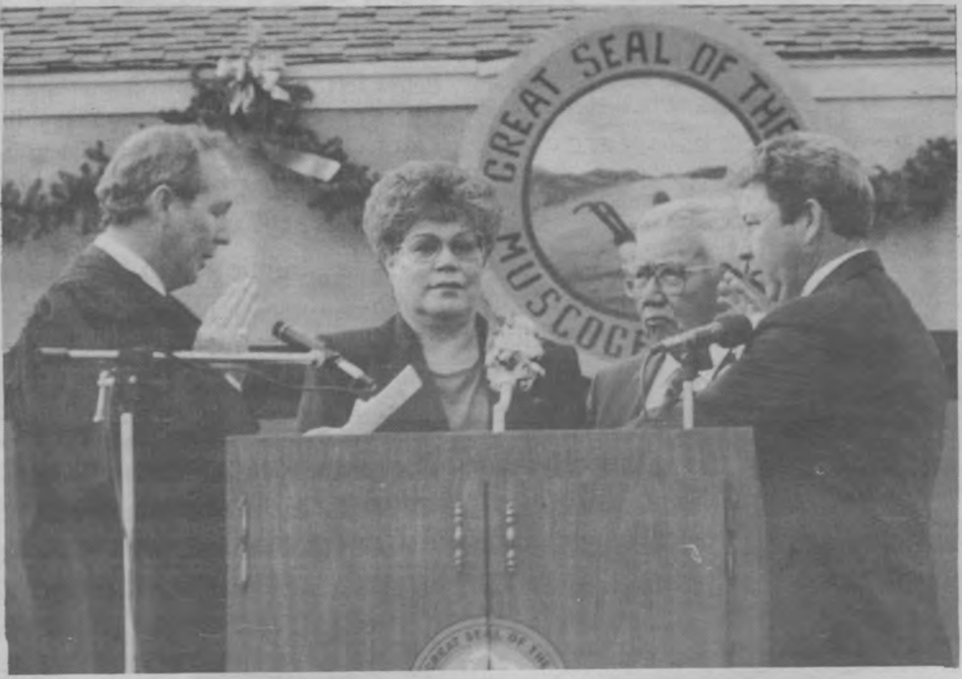
Manager: Charley LaSarge
1008 Eufaula St.
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-2917, 3467 or 3002

Creek Nation Health Care System

Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah
(918) 623-1424
Okmulgee Dental Clinic
(918) 756-8700, ext. 247, 254
Creek Nation Community Hospital Clinic, Okemah
(918) 623-0555
Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic
(918) 224-9310
Eufaula Indian Health Clinic
(918) 689-2547

Inauguration 1992

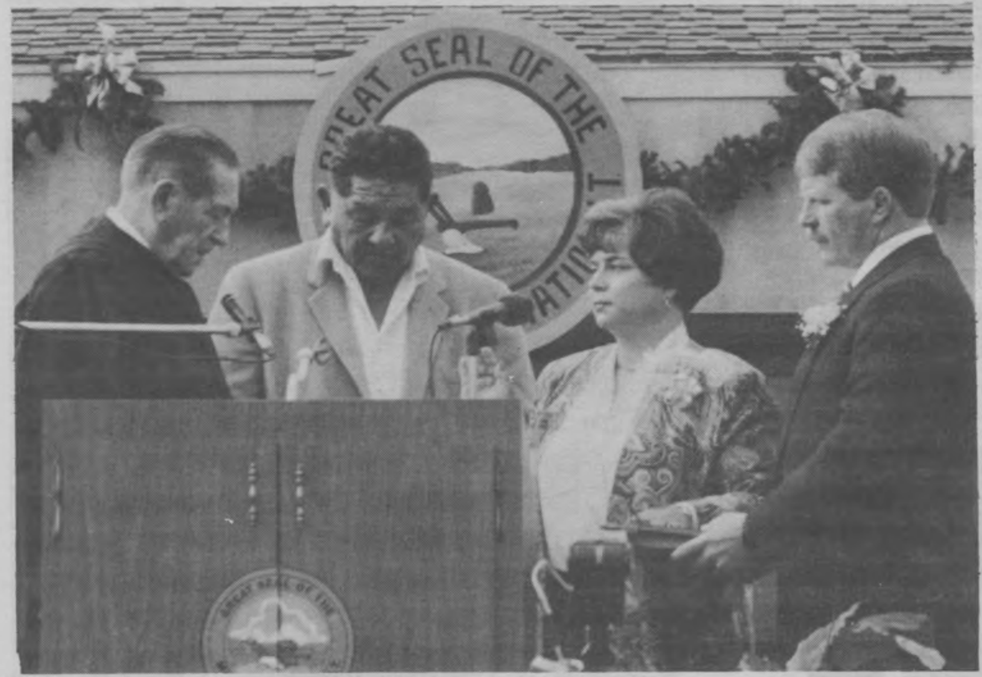
"As we, the Muscogee (Creek) people, face the challenges of the 21st century, it is important that we remember our history and band together against the forces which will seek to destroy the existence of tribal government. If we stand together as one - and let me tell you now, that we will need to - we can overcome any crisis together."



Above. Principal Chief Bill Fife takes the oath of office.
From left to right, Joe Johnson, Chief Justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court, Mary Fife, James Fife and Bill Fife.

Left. A future supporter offers a hand of friendship to Principal Chief Bill Fife at the victory dance hosted by the Kellyville Indian Community.

Lower left. Second Chief Shelly Crow takes the oath of office.
From left to right, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Douglas, Spencer Frank, Shelly Crow and John Crow III.



"As Muscogee people, let's be diligent and ensure that any changes that occur within the Creek Nation boundaries, the government or the people, have been mandated by the Creek people, initiated by the Creek people and controlled by the Creek people."

Photos by: ***Stephanie Berryhill, Janice Frye, Kevin Watson and Jim Wolfe***

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Inauguration 1992—

Left. Thlewarle Deacon Barton Looney opens the ceremony with the blowing of the pufketa (horn).
Below left. Wagoner, Muskogee and McIntosh District representatives Mike Berryhill, Harley Little, Helen Chupco, Wilson Bear, Tommy Pickering, Tommy Newwton and Sandy McIntosh are sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Willard Pittman.
Above right. Second Chief Crow entertains KJRH reproter Chris Gabettas in an interview following the inauguration.
Below right. Chief Fife receives congratulations from Gary "Chickenhawk" George, Polecat (Kellyville) Ceremonial Ground at a victory dance at the Kellyville Indian Community Center.

GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.

Left. Tribal court judges Patrick Moore, Willard Pittman, Mike Flud, Richard LerBlance, Clarence Douglas and Chief Justice Joe Johnson watch the ceremony.
Below left. Rev. Roley Haynes and Chief Fife visit after the inaguration. Chief Fife was sworn with Haynes' Bible.
Right. Chief Fife gives his inagural address to a crowd of over1,000.

GREAT SEAL OF THE
MUSCOGEE NATION I.T.

I would like to express my gratitude for all of the work and effort that culiminated in a wonderful inauguration ceremony.

Thank you doesn't seem adequate. I am moved.

Mvto.
Principal Chief Bill Fife

Left. Roman Butler, Peach Ground; Jim Brown, Polecat (Kellyville) Ceremonial Ground Chief; Eddie Lowe, Tallahassee; Charlie McGertt, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town King and Wilbur "Chebon" Gouge, Weogufkee, applaud Chief Fife's inagural address.

Below left. Chief Fife responds to a KTUL reporter after the inaguration.

Below center. Creek citizen Pat Anderson, Preston, enjoys herself at Chief Fife's reception held at Creek Nation's Okmulgee Bingo.

Below right. Chief Fife and Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller mug for the camera while Congressman Mike Synar entertains with Shelly Crow.

Above right. Two Mvskoke leaders shake hands. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town King Charlie McGertt and Chief Fife enjoy conversation.

I want to say thank you to the many people that were involved in the inauguration to make it a special day. The support and encouragement I received means a great deal to me. Mvto. Thanks from the heart.
Second Chief Shelly Crow

Left. Greenleaf and Duck Creek Ceremonial ground mekkos Toney Hill and Simon Harry light the ceremonial fire at the inauguration. **Right.** More congratulations...

''A Time of Change''

The Inaugural Address, by Principal Chief Bill Fife

Condensed from the January 4 Inaugural Address

Since 1900, our Muscogee (Creek) Nation has undergone many changes. At the beginning of the century we, along with the other civilized nations, were fighting to keep our sovereignty.

By 1901, the Dawes Commission was enrolling tribal members for allotments, and statehood loomed on the horizon. As late as 1905, the Seyouquah Convention, made up of Indian delegates proposing an Indian state, elected our Chief Pleasant Porter as chairman.

However, The Enabling Act of 1906, allowing for statehood, ended that effort. In that same year, the Five Tribes Act of 1906 stripped the tribal government of its powers, although the government was still allowed to exist.

And even though we were no longer a sovereign nation, the people of our tribe held our culture together. The ceremonial grounds remained strong and active, the churches remained strong and active, and the people held together - recognizably a strong Indian tribe.

Again, there were changes.

Sixty-three years after statehood, the Five Tribes Act of 1970 allowed for new elections and we elected Claude Allen Cox the first principal chief of this new governmental era. In 1974, Allen Harjo, a Creek from Tulsa, filed a lawsuit against the federal government, the Harjo vs. Kleppe case; he won, and this decision determined that the governing body of the nation is the National Council. In 1979 a new constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was ratified by the Muscogee people, we had regained our sovereignty, and in these last 20 years, we have drastically changed the concept of the Creek Nation, the perception of tribal government, and the whole idea of tribal operations.

However, those who did the most to bring about this change were you - the Creek citizens. Without your support and ideas, we would not have progressed nor could we have remained so strong.

Today, the Creek Nation is the third largest federally recognized tribe in the United States. We have a land base of approximately 6,000 acres scattered throughout our jurisdictional boundaries. Our tribal economy impacts the local area in excess of 35 million dollars with various amounts going to health care, education, housing, human services, and other programs

Even with these funds, we, as a tribe, find our people in serious need of improved health care, better housing, more effective educational programs, and increased human services to meet family needs.

A major issue of crisis we now face is the shocking number of Creeks who are without jobs in the Creek Nation. It is estimated that one out of five employable Creek citizens are unable to find work.

As the chief executive officer for the Creek Nation, I will work to create more meaningful employment within the Creek Nation.

From all directions we must focus our attention on employment - we must educate our young for future employment, train our adults for rewarding work, and maintain the health of our people so they can pursue careers with vigor.

We will not forget the other programs. However, in knowing that we all have a special role to play in helping fellow Creeks, we will build a stronger, more responsive tribal government.

Here at the complex, I want you, the Creek citizens, to feel welcome and to feel that you will receive services for your needs.

As we, the Muscogee (Creek) people, face the challenges of the 21st century, it is important that we remember our history and band together against forces which will seek to destroy the existence of the tribal government. If we stand together as one - and let me tell you now, that we will need to - we can overcome any crisis together.

Some of these changes are inevitable. Some are beyond our power to defray. Many changes will be good: new medical breakthroughs, new educational methods and systems, new technologies, new jobs, new communication systems, and better ecological safeguards, to name a few.

As Muscogee people, let's be diligent and ensure that any changes that occur within the Creek Nation boundaries, the government, or the people, have been mandated by the Creek people, initiated by the Creek people, and controlled by the Creek people.

For our nation to continue to grow, develop and improve for our Creek and Yuchi citizens, above all, we must have dedicated tribal employees who put service to Creeks and Yuchis as their top priority. They must be committed to serve and must exhibit a devotion to assisting our citizens.

Naturally, what we achieve is fashioned by what all of us do, our destiny is determined by the deeds and desires of each citizen, as one tiny drop of water after another ultimately makes a flowing river. If my words here today can add a few drops to that flowing river and be an inspiration to you, then I will feel that I have begun to serve our people.

The Great Seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation features the land, a sheaf of wheat, and a plow, these exemplify maintenance of our tribal holdings, diligence in work, sustenance of Creek people, and strength in spirit. This Creek seal implies not just one idea, one person, one church, one tribal town, or one community. It signifies one people made up of many different backgrounds who have the common bond; the Creek, Alabama, Quarsarti, and Hitchiti. This symbol is closely related to the noble spirit of the Creek people - it is a source of inspiration for us all.

As principal chief, I am inspired to strengthen our tribal government, and I will pursue, with vigor, a more efficient executive branch, restore program and financial accountability and promote fair and reasonable policies that affect you and the tribe as a whole.

The resources of the Creeks are not exhausted. They were not exhausted when our ancestors were forced to leave Georgia in the early 1800s, and they were not exhausted a century later when the tribe was pushed to liquidate the tribal government.

Fife

All we have to do is to look around us and see that our resources are not dwindling, but growing. This river I mentioned is flowing freely from a great spring of resources. If used wisely, it will sustain us as Muscogee people.

And so I end on a note of optimism. In the next four years you will see changes--positive changes. We have a whole nation of people who are ready and willing to make this government work.

I do not feel alone in this office. I feel that we, the Muscogee people, can achieve any goal. I feel that our nation - because of the vitality and endurance of its people - is prepared to meet the challenges of this decade - a decade which will lead us into the next century.

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

Address correction requested

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 2

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447

February 1992, 12 Pages

Textile artist preserves Creek art form

Creek artist revives material Mvskoke culture

story and photo by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

To look at Jay McGirt is to take a step-back in time.

Viewing his ostrich and egret feather-adorned turban lends a vision of history -- a vision of what Opothle Yahola might have looked like as he begrudgingly signed the Removal Treaty of 1832.

He offers an image of how Okfuskee Ground Henneha Menawa may have adorned himself as he set-out on Tecumseh's pan-Indian crusades.

The Mvskoke-Seminole textile artist's designs have revived this traditional Mvskoke art form.

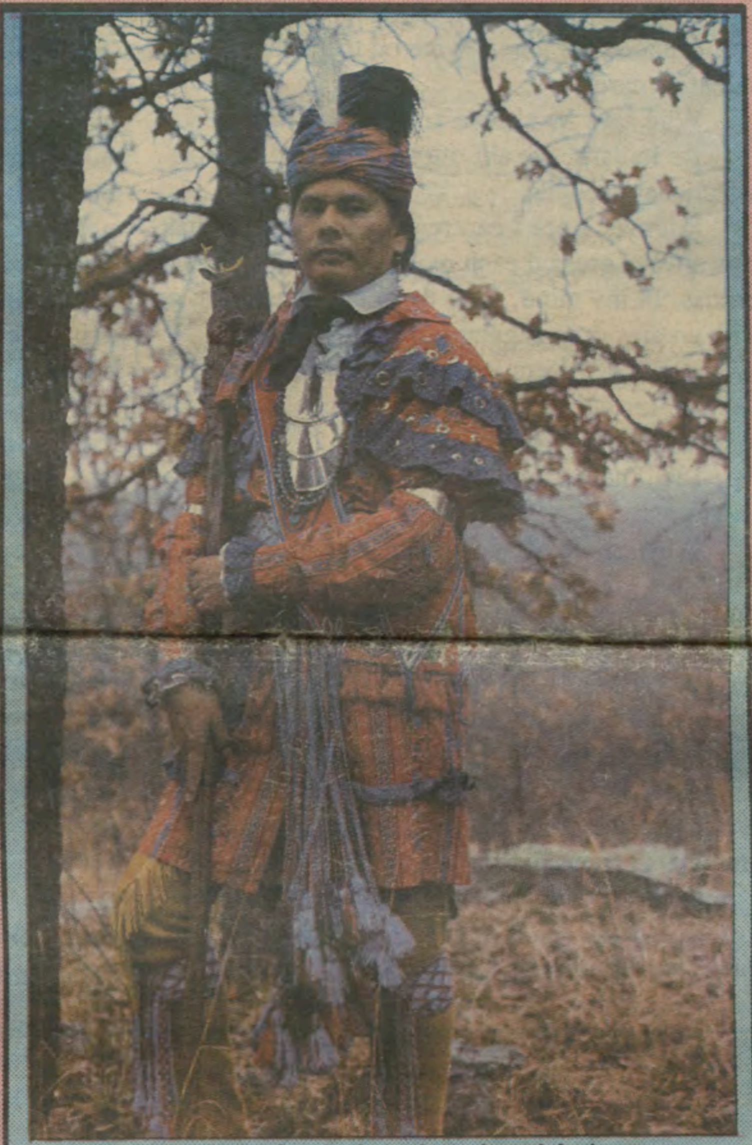
McGirt wants people to know traditional Mvskoke-Seminole clothing consists of more than just ribbon shirts, cowboy hats and blue jeans.

For the past ten years, he has been researching, and creating traditional Mvskoke-Seminole clothing from the 1700s to 1800s.

Upon attending Indian-related functions, McGirt found he had nothing truly Mvskoke-Seminole to wear. What started out as need for traditional attire turned into a trade for the former men's tailor.

''Haven't you ever noticed how

please see McGIRT, page 11



The Mvskoke-Seminole male as he might have appeared at special ceremonies in the1800s.

Change coming says Principal Chief Fife; progress being made

Principal Chief Bill Fife says his administration has made progress, but that he wants any change to be slow and certain.

The remarks are from his state of the nation address made at the National Council's January session.

''There is excellent progress to establish a new environment,'' Fife said, ''(But) I'm being cautious preparing for this new course of action.''

The Fife administration began Jan. 6.

Fife said the tribe had the potential to achieve the basic goals of his administration.

According to Fife's address, those goals are:

-- to instill a new philosophy that promotes unity and communication between the three branches of government;

-- to increase efforts to preserve tribal sovereignty and cultural heritage;

-- improve service delivery; and

-- to institute a functioning planning program.

Fife said he is willing to work with the Council and the judicial branch and that the branches must not infringe on the authority of the others.

His commitment to expanding tribal sovereignty is evident with the appointment of Mildred Harjo Ware, currently the executive director of Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.

Harjo has extensive experience in Indian law, including appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court.

please see TRANSITION, page 11

Creek Nation Housing Authority Board making changes

Ken Childers says he likes to make things happen.

Less than two weeks after receiving National Council confirmation, the new chair of the new Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, began the term with action.

Some of the changes include, the resignation of several housing authority employees and the naming of an acting deputy director.

Childers, the former National Council speaker, is joined on the board by Morris O'Hern of Mounds; vice-chair; Senora Hayes of Coweta; Joe July of Checotah; and Thomas McIntosh of Stidham. The Creek Nation Housing Authority is a state-chartered corporation administering Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs for Indian housing.

One of the board's first moves was to retain Greg Stidham, Checotah, most recently the National Council attorney, for legal counsel.

The first meeting for the new board was Jan. 22. Most of the meeting was for orientation of the board to regulations, policies and procedures.

The board did go into executive session with Sam Whitlow, former housing authority executive director.

Childers said , Whitlow was instructed, by the board, not to make any personnel changes until all of the housing authority's staff, regulations, and policies had been reviewed.

Whitlow however, terminated then deputy director Ron Scott, chief accountant Hanna Beaver, counselor Beverly Chancey, executive secretary Josephine Wilson and accounts payable clerk Wilma Tiger. After the terminations, Whitlow submitted his resignation.

Childers said Whitlow's actions were unauthorized, but the board accepted the personnel decisions after each was required to sign a waiver releasing the authority from any liability with the personnel changes.

The board named Anna Hancock as acting deputy director. Hancock of Okmulgee, was formerly the development manager for all the authority's housing projects. Hancock has been employed with the housing authority since 1975.

Second Chief offers update on health care system

by **Shelly Crow**
Second Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Under my year tenure as chair of the hospital and clinics board, Indian Health Service contracts for 1990 and 1991 are closed. IHS states our system has a carry-over around one million dollars. This money is currently being spent on citizens for speciality care outside of our facilities.

The health system is in compliance with the government-mandated single audit act requirement. Meeting federal stipulations are paramount in retaining our IHS contracts. According to the IHS, as we enter the 1992 contract, we are in good standing.

Under the previous administration, IHS contracts that date back to 1985 through 1989 have still not been closed. The health board is currently working with the present administration to solve past problems.

With the installment of a new health board and the implementation of innovative ideas, we anticipate the following year to be a successful one. Because of the recent placement of a patient advocate within the hospital -- citizens will have support in accessing the health system more easily.

I am appreciative of the 1988 through 1991 National Council members for supporting me and the health board. As second chief, and former health board chair, the hospital and clinics are still one of my top priorities. Under Principal Chief Bill Fife's administration, I will serve the health board in an advisory capacity.

At this time, with the consent of the National Council, Creek parents, tribal towns, ceremonial grounds, churches and community leaders, Chief Fife and I are considering contracting the state's Johnson-O'Malley programs within Creek Country. To offer quality education to our youth, there must be tribal input from headstart through adult education. In running our own programs, we can work with neighboring tribes to insure JOM-designated federal monies are being used for Indian students.

With tribally run programs, parents also will have more participation and input. We are encouraging interested Creeks to attend the JOM Eighth Annual Conference, March 10 through 12, at the Sheraton Kensington Galleria, Tulsa. The conference is being held in conjunction with the Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw, Sac and Fox and Seminole tribes. All five of these tribes have successfully contracted their JOM programs.

Chief Fife, and I are working to make the capitol complex a more pleasant, and welcome environment for the people. Although I am not here full-time, I am making myself available to the people as much as possible.

Make this St. Valentine's Day an opportunity to express one's love

commentary by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate Editor

St. Valentine's Day conjures up images of red hearts, pink cupcakes, and chubby, flaxen-haired cupids drawing their bows.

Valentine's cards, and pastel-colored, heart-shaped candy with ''Be Mine'' messages bring to mind childhood Valentine's Days.

In sixth grade, it was a young Creek boy that first declared his love for me on the back of a valentine card.

Who says Mvskokes aren't passionate?

As Indians, we are often sterotyped as unaffectionate people.

But ever since I can remember, my grandparents always greeted each other with a morning hug or kiss. In my mind, I see them holding hands, or with an arm draped gently over each other's shoulder. They were open about expressing their feelings for one another and affectionately referred to each other as ''mom'' and ''dad.''

I will never forget the love lessons they taught me.

When some of us visualize our grandparents and great-grandparents, it seems we remember them as a package. We see them, in our head, as one.

In my mind, pictures of them appear at the kitchen table, at the laundromat, at church, visiting friends -- and always together.

Although my grandma has been gone for seven years, there's still lonesomeness in my grandpa's presence.

Over the past year, many of our elders have lost their mates, and, as I hate knowing my grandfather is often lonely, I hate to think they too, feel alone.

The American public markets Valentine's Day for lovers, but I have never believed it wasn't also for grandparents, parents, friends and siblings.

Valentine's Day should be a reminder to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us.

Everyday was Valentine's day for my grandparents -- as everyday should be an opportunity to do something special for those we often take for granted.

Sometimes our elders go unnoticed and unappreciated. They are the the source of our existence and the bearers of our tradition. Their experience lends us a reserve of wisdom.

''Valentine's Day should be a reminder to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us.''

They, as all people, deserve to be respected, listened to, and sought for knowledge.

Grandpa always tells me flowers should be for the living. People can't see or smell flowers when their dead, he often says.

Whether it's candy, a stuffed animal, or a small breakfast every morning -- I give my grandpa ''flowers'' as often as I can.

Editor's note: Stephanie Berryhill is the granddaughter of Thomas Sr. and the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News,* unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News,* guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News,* its advisors or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer, and include a traceable address for confirmation.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece. *The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700, (918) 758-0824

Communications department
Acting managing editor: Jim Wolfe
Acting editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Adminstrative Assistant: Anita Freeman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson

The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as a public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion).
KWSH-Wewoka, am 1260, Wednesdays, 11:05 a.m.
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sundays, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturdays, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 a.m.

National Council has routine January meeting

OKMULGEE -- The first regular session of the tribal National Council produced four appointments to tribal boards, but returned some important to committee.

The Council approved nominations to the citizenship, election and the health boards.

Jess Kelly of Tulsa, and Kenneth Moore of Morris, were confirmed to the Creek Nation Election Board. Former Hughes-Seminole District Representative Thomas Yahola of Wetumka, received confirmation to the citizenship board and Helen Coon of Sapulpa, was reappointed to the Creek Nation Hospital and Clinics Board.

Returned to the Council's economic development committee was a bill that would allow the tribe's gaming operations board to negotiate Class III gaming compacts with Oklahoma.

Presently, the tribe operates Class II gaming activities (bingo and pull tabs) at five locations, including the Creek Nation's Tulsa Bingo facility. Class III gaming covers any gaming that is not bingo, pull tabs or a traditional tribal game.

The Council also returned to committee an amendment to the controller act. The amendment would remove some of the bureaucracy involved with purchases under $10,000, said Tulsa District Rep. Jerry Wilson, the bill's author.

Okmulgee District Rep. Harvey Gilroy said there was no need to waive any of the requirements for purchasing.

"We're not in a hurry (for change)."

In other business, the Council:

-- authorized the tribe's law enforcement division to contract a similar program from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The action also allows the tribe's law enforcement to seek other grants and funding sources for the program;

-- clarified the Creek policy for its membership in the Five Tribes Intertribal Council. The bill designates the tribe's representation to the intertribal organization, composed of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Creek tribes;

-- authorized the use of tribal land for the Hanna Indian Community to construct softball diamonds;

-- authorized the chief to seek trust status for the Duck Creek Indian Community;

-- modified the budget of the tribal attorney general with a $52,705 increase;

-- recorded its [illegible] tion proposal by resolution; and

-- amended the scope of work to the BIA natural resources contract to allow for a broader area of assistance for water resources on tribal lands.

The Council's next regular session will be Feb. 29, at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee.

Council reconsiders approval of executive appointments

The National Council rescinded its earlier approval of an amendment, to NCA 88-15, that would waive the Council's right to approve nominees for the administration's highest non-elected offices.

NCA 88-15 requires the principal chief to submit his administrative organization plan and the directors to the Council for approval.

Last year the tribal Supreme Court ruled that the ordinance was in compliance with Article 5, section 2(b) of the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution.

The approval for the amendment had been given at a Jan. 15 special session. Muskogee District Representative Harley Little however, asked for the amendment (NCA 92-05) to be reconsidered at the Jan. 25 regular session.

Little told the Council that repealing the ordinance to approve executive appointments is unconstitutional, and any change would require a referendum.

"The Council does not have the authority (to approve the amendment)," Little said.

Tulsa District Rep. Jerry Wilson told the Council that NCA 88-15 was vague and could not address the present tribal situation.

"The people have put a lot of faith in (Principal Chief Bill Fife)," Wilson said.

Fife told the Council that in some instances, the ordinance has been a hindrance in recruiting qualified people to work for the tribe, but that he would work within tribal law.

"I will operate by the law," Fife told the Council. "There should be checks and balances, (but) let's be open-minded."

Tribal justices receive national appointments

WASHINGTON -- The chief justice of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court has been named to the National American Indian Court Judges Association.

Joe Johnson will serve on the association's executive board, along with 12 other members from throughout the United States.

The NAICJA. established in 1968. is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization, with a corporate office in Washington, D.C.

Its purpose is to improve the American Indian court system, to provide upgrading of the system, to further tribal and public knowledge and understanding of Indian courts, and to conduct research and educational services.

Johnson, in his capacity as an executive director, will be representing three states.

"This is an honor, not only for me, but for the Creek Nation," Johnson said. "I'm looking forward to working with the other members of the board.".

The board of directors are selected from six different regions, and Johnson falls under the association's region one.

The region covers the same area as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Albuquerque, N.M. region. Tribal judges recognized in this area include the Mississippi Choctaws and any federally-recognized tribe in Oklahoma.

The term of office for each director is two years. The president sets the time and place for meetings during any given year.

The board may also hold special sessions and meetings with a 10 day notice.

The board, according to its by-laws, "shall have the supervision, control, management and direction of the affairs of the association; shall execute the policies and decisions of the membership; shall prosecute actively the association's objectives and shall have the discretion in the disbursement of all funds coming to the association."

As second vice-president, Johnson is charged with the responsibility of presiding over the association's meetings in the absence of the president and the first vice-president.

Johnson is in his second term as tribal chief justice. He has been a member of the court since 1987.

Tribal District Court Judge Pat Moore has been appointed to the NAICJA steering committee. He will work with the committee in planning and organization.

Moore has been a district judge since 1987.

Ellis, Randall win special election; make Council largest ever

OKMULGEE -- The 1992-93 National Council membership is set after a Feb. 1 special election.

Morris businessman A.D. Ellis and Okema Randall of Broken Arrow, won their respective elections in the Okmulgee and Tulsa districts.

The special election was set by the Council after the tribal Supreme Court ruled there were irregularities in the counting of the ballots after the October primary election.

Ellis defeated James Hale of Okmulgee, 294-159 votes. Randall edged incumbent Donna Rhodes by 11 votes; 192-181 votes.

As *The Muscogee Nation News* went to press, there had been no protests filed with the tribal election board.

Ellis owns and operates Southwest Motor Rebuilding. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ellis is a retired member of the Teamsters Union.

Randall is active in several Indian organizations in the Tulsa metropolitan era.

It is the first time either has been elected to a tribal office.

Indians injured and arrested while protesting use of Indian mascots

by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate Editor

MINNEAPOLIS -- During the University of Minnesota-University of Illinois basketball game, 12 Indians were physically and verbally assaulted by Minnesota University police.

The skirmish occurred as the demonstrators unfolded a banner quoting dictionary definitions of racial slurs in protest to Illinois' mascot, ``Chief Illiniwek,'' said Mike Haney, one of the demonstrators.

Haney, Seminole-Lakota, said the mascot sports a long head dress, simulated buckskin clothing, and war paint. ``It does a dance with a marching band and cheerleaders. They all kind of get into the act,'' he said.

The group, collectively representing the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and the Media, (NCRSM) feels the mascot is a sterotype which degrades and demeans American Indian culture and spirituality.

''When children watch a whole stadium of people [on TV] doing the tomohawk chop, it signifies [to them] that it's all right to make fun of Indians,'' Haney said.

Katrina Coker, Creek, was one of the twelve protestors.

''The University of Illinios has Indian imagery on toliet paper. Why can't they call themselves something that is not connected with Indian people? Why do they have this drive to hang onto this imagery?,'' said Coker, Heart of America Indian Center Board of Directors member.

Coker was injured, but did not seek medical treatment because she lacked medical insurance.

Two women and a 12 year-old girl received injuries requiring medical attention, Haney said. ''Both women received bruises when they were pushed to the ground.'' The little girl was pushed down a flight of stairs, he said. Haney, a United Indian Nations representative, Oklahoma, was also injured. He received medical attention for a fractured wrist, was arrested and held in the Hennepin County Jail for one hour. MU police also knocked out Haney's front tooth.

Vernon and Little Crow Bellecourt, NCRSM representatives, and Don Messec, a National Congress of American Indians' representative, Washington, D.C., were also arrested.

Messec, a non-Indian, videotaped the incident; his footage was shown on both the Cable News Network (CNN) and the Entertainment Sports Programming Network (ESPN).

They were held on probable cause for aggravated assault on a police officer, Haney said.

All were released without being charged. University charges are still pending, although Haney said they have not been notified.

''We've clearly shown, through our videotapes, they attacked from the rear and we didn't provoke it,'' said Haney. He contends the university police were trying to keep them out of cameraview of the nationally televised game.

The 12 NCRSM representatives have not filed charges against the university, though seven area attorneys have volunteered their services to the group, Haney said.

Haney complaint pending resolution

In December, Mike Haney filed a complaint against the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc. with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

He contends the club has discriminated against him because of his race and religion.

''The actions of the Chiefs aid discrimination against my religion by promoting the disrespectful use of facsimiles of sacred objects and activites, such as our eagle feathers for headdresses, face paint, 'Indian' dancing and 'Indian' chants,'' stated Haney in his complaint.

According to the complaint, Haney seeks the removal of the Chiefs' Indian mascot image -- a wolf. He wants scoreboard messages involving or encouraging racial and religious slurs, and the sale of Indian-related merchandise halted.

Missouri Commission Human Rigths investigator Sammie Hoss is working with Haney and the club to agree to an out-of-court settlement, Haney said.

-- by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate Editor

Minor league franchise changes logo to''honor'' Mvskoke-Creek culture

by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Assaciate Editor

COLUMBUS, Ga. -- In Muscogee County, Ga., a new redstick organization exists under the name of the historic Mvskoke warriors.

The Class A minor league baseball's South Altlantic Team, formerly the Columbus Indians, recently changed its name to the Columbus Redstixx.

Its logo changed from a depiction of a larged-nosed, smiling Indian, to the letter ''c'', with two ''x's'' crossed by a bat and ball. Franchise vice-president and general manager John Dittrich compares the use of the two x's to the (Boston) Red Sox or the (Chicago) White Sox.

Because its parent club is the Cleveland Indians, its former logo resembled the Indian's smiling ''Wahoo.'' Dittrich contends they changed their logo to keep from offending people.

He said the name was suggested to him by Frank Schnell of the Columbus Museum.

''I think you'd have to be real knowledgeable about (Creeks) to know it was even about Indians.''

please see **LOGO**, page 11

Glenpool Creek Indian Community unique

by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associated Editor

GLENPOOL -- Because many Creek Indian community centers are located in small towns, off rural roads, and in the woods of Creek Country -- it seems odd that one can be found off of busy U.S. Highway 75.

But Glenpool Creek Indian Community is rather unique. Its geogrpahic location has already predetermined that. Its mixture of two cultures -- area Yuchi's and Mvskokes -- lends it diversity.

The community was chartered in June 1988, although it was organized in the late 1970s, said Ken Childers, community chair.

The late Andy Bible initiated the organization of the community. Prior to obtaining a center, it met in members homes, the Glenpool Indian Baptist Mission, and at Glenpool Public Schools Indian Education Eudcation Program facilities.

The community's center, formerly Servco Housing, officially opened its doors in Oct., 1990.

The community has 200 registered members, sixty of which are active, Childers said.

The community is ''fairly'' youthful, ''but they've got young ideas,'' states Childers.

He also believes the participation, and ideas of community elders sustains the community.

please see **GLENPOOL**, page 11

submitted photo

Principal Chief Bill Fife prepares to cut a ribbon at the smokeshop grand opening as Second Chief Shelly Crow, Mike Coon, Donna rhodes, Cheri Haney, Virginai Nichwander and Billie Childers assists.

Communities expecting visits from Cupid

compiled by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate Editor

Dewar

-- In the spirit of St. Valentine's Day, Dewar Indian Community is holding a sweetheart couple contest.

The couples running are: Dock and Milly Yardy, Elmer and Eunice Lockhart, Houston and Eliza Hicks, Bill and Myrtle Mousser and Eugene and Estaline Fields.

The winners will be the couple with the most votes. One penny is equivalent to a vote; votes will be based upon the couple that collects the most pennies. They may be cast at the community center.The sweetheart couple will be announced at a Valentine's Day dinner for its elders at noon, Feb. 14.

Wetumka

-- Wetumka Indian Community is celebrating Valentine's Day with a pageant and party. A king, and queen will be selected from two categories -- infants to children age four, and children ages five through nine.

The pageant will begin at 6 p.m., Feb 14. For more information, call the community center at (405) 452-3131.

-- A Feb. 8 doubles domino tournament will be held at the center. The tournament will begin at 1 p.m., and costs $3 per person.

Eufaula

-- Eufaula Indian Community is holding several activities for its youth Feb. 13.

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. a party for children ages nine, and under will be held at the bingo hall.

Youth 10, and over will get to try their hand at bingo. The kids will play bingo games for prizes such as gifts, and gift certificates from local merchants.

-- On Feb. 15, the community will hold a coed volleyball tournament. It will begin at 9 a.m. in the Eufaula Boarding School Gymnasium. The tournament is open to the first 12 teams which turn in its $40 entry fee by Feb. 13.

The community will have a seven-man roster -- one player will serve as an alternate. First, and second place winners will receive t-shirts. Third place winners will receive a trophy. Most valuable male, and female player awards also will be given.

-- On Feb. 22, community girls will have the opportunity to scrimmage the Jones Academy girls. Activity coordinator Jerry Francis will be taking the first 20 girls that sign-up in two age categories. Those eligible are ten girls ages 10 through 12, and 10 which are between the ages of 13 through 15. The van will leave from the community center at 11:30 a.m.

-- Last month, the community, along with Checotah Indian Community, held a dinner for Principal Chief Bill Fife and Second Chief Shelly Crow.

Between 150 to 200 people were in attendance, said Susie Deere, vice-chair.

Checotah

-- Four Checotah Indian Community youth recently won senior reserve champion for a dance they choreographed for the McIntosh County 4-H Talent Show.

Those Creeks participating in the show were Kim Armstrong, Jason Fairchilds, Jeff Dooley and Kurt Henson; all received a plaque and blue ribbons. The show, titled ''Share the Fun,'' was held at the Checotah Elementary School.

Oklahoma City

-- Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association is holding a Valentine's party at 7 p.m., Feb. 13.

The party will be held at the association office, located at 711 Southwest 29th.

Muskogee

-- Muskogee Indian Community is filling three positions within its elders' nutrition program.

It will be taking applications for three positions -- a cook, cooks helper and van driver. Applications will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 21. The community center is located at 111 S. Virginia.

-- The community is holding a garage sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 8.

Items to be sold include three shower stalls, two tanning booths, an electric stove, a refrigerator, a 14 by 18 foot carpet and miscellaneous items. Community members may bring personal items to sell; tables will be provided.

Okmulgee

-- Okmulgee Indian Community still has monies for the purchase of athletic equipment for eligible community children meeting income guidelines.

Glenpool

-- Glenpool Creek Indian Community has begun offering Mvskoke and Yuchi language classes to community members.

The two separate classes are held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Instructors James Proctor, and Bill Cahwee have volunteered their services to the community. The classes are free of charge.

-- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services attorney Mike Snyder will be at the center from 12 to 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

--The community's gift shop is now accepting arts, and crafts on a 20 percent consignment basis. The percentage will go to the community.

Hanna

-- Cupid will be in full force at Hanna Indian Community's Valentine's Day dance. The community's youth are hosting the dance from 7 to 11 p.m., Feb. 14.

The disc jockey is Music Sound Unlimited. Admission is 50 cents for students 12 through 18, and $1 for adults. Adult supervision will be provided. No alcohol allowed.

Koweta

-- Koweta Indian Community is in the process of starting arts and crafts classes. Beading, sash, and basket weaving are some of the classes that may possibly be taught. For more information, call Eloweda Tiger at 486-9904.

Sapulpa

-- A Valentine's social will kick-off Sapulpa Indian Community's regular meeting this month.

The gathering begins at 7 p.m., Feb. 10, with the regular meeting to follow. The meeting place is the community's office, at 1030 E. Taft, suite 110 in the Creek Hills Mall.

Okemah

-- Okemah Indian Community recently elected new officers at a community meeting.

Officers are: Wilman Berryhill, chair; Kenny Roberts Jr., vice-chair; Inda McGertt, secretary; and Rebecca Stroud, treasurer. Francine Lowe was elected as a board member. March Wind, Jimmie Johnson, and Betty Scott were elected to the community's advisory committee.

-- A benefit gospel singing will be held at the center 7 p.m., Feb. 22. Proceeds from the singing will help defray Rev. Louis Harjo's expenses incurred from dialysis treatments he is receiving.

Rev. Harjo is the pastor of Creek Chapel United Methodist Church.

The group, Country Gospel, will be hosting the singing; any group or individual may participate. ''We'll go as long as the crowd lasts,'' Berryhill said.

A food basket will be raffled, and concessions will be provided.

-- Community reporter Rebecca Stroud recently underwent surgery to have her leg amputated. Stroud, a diabetic, is currently in the Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada.

To wish her well, write Carl Albert Indian Hospital, 1001 N. Country Club Road, attn: Rebecca Stroud, Rm. 30, Ada, OK 74820.

-- The community has changed its meeting days to 7 p.m., the first, and third Mondays of each month.

Tulsa

-- Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set new office hours, as well as hours to accept emergency assistance applications. It has also limited the number of applications accepted to 10 per month, and $100 per household, until further notice.

The monies will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The times are from 8:30 a.m. through noon, Monday through Friday.

The office will be closed from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

-- Ronald Fixico has been appointed chair of the community's land search committee. Other members include Newman Childers, Kenneth Lowe, Teddy McHenry, W.J. Scott, Ted Waldon, Jimmy Wildcat and community chair Richard Wilde.

-- Vice-chair Okemah Randall was recently named the community's youth council committee chair. Randall recently won Tulsa District representative Seat F to the National Council.

Okfuskee

-- Okfuskee Indian Community members celebrating birthdays this month are LouAnnie and Abby Walters.

To include your community, ceremonial ground or church news in the March edition of the MNN, contact Stephanie Berryhill, at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447

Creek seeks Texas Indians for health needs assessment for possible clinic

HOUSTON -- Houston has recently been selected as a prospective location for a federally-funded Indian Health Service Clinic.

The city is one of six cities selected in the U.S. to possibly house a comprehensive health care center to meet the needs of the Native Americans in the Houston area. In the recent 1990 census, more than 8,000 Houstonians identified themselves as Native American.

A needs assessment for the viability of a Houston clinic will be made during March 23-27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except for March 26 when the test begins at 10 a.m.)

The American Indian Health team is also scheduled to be at the monthly pow wow, March 28, at St. Francis De Sales Catholic School. The week-day sessions will be at Texas Rehabilitation Commission's Houston South Field Office at 2656 S. Loop Interstate 610 West, Suite 270.

One of the leaders in the drive to get health services in urban Texas is Richard Yahola. Yahola is a member of the Creek Nation from Cromwell.

Yahola said an effort is being made to work with state agencies, media, and Congressmen in the Houston area to make Indian health needs known in large cities such as Houston.

Yahola contends Houston should be entitled to urban health care programs such as those on recognized Indian lands.

''I think it would be great if our generation of Creeks can work to create opportunities, and social change so that our children, and children's children can take pride in their Native American heritage regardless if they are in Oklahoma, Texas, or anyplace else. I think addressing the health needs is a good start.''

For further information, contact Yahola at the University of Houston at (713) 741-1420, or send a postcard with a return address and phone number to Richard Yahola, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, c/o University of Houston, 3801 Cullen Blvd., Student Service Center rm. 308, Houston, TX 77004.

Religion in brief

Springfield to host gospel singing

OKEMAH -- Springfield United Methodist Church is holding a gospel singing Feb. 29, 7 p.m. Proceeds from this fundraising event will go toward the repair of the fellowship hall's roof.

A concession will be provided.

The church is two miles south of Interstate 40 on state highway 27, four miles east, and one mile south.

Okmulgee First observes race day

OKMULGEE -- Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church will observe Race Relations Day Feb. 9. Featured speaker is the Rev. Alton Brown, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Hoffman. The theme for the service is ''We care.'' Sunday school is at 10 a.m. Worship services begin at 11 a.m. The church is at 320 N. Mission, Okmulgee.

Arbeka holds food bingo at its center

ARBEKA -- Arbeka Ceremonial Ground is holding its monthly food bingo game at 7 p.m., Feb. 8 at the ground's community center. Concession sales will begin at 5:30 p.m.

It will also hold food bingo Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. The food sale will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Salt Creek to hold onion dinner

YEAGER -- Getting a jump-start on the wild onion dinner season is Salt Creek United Methodist Church. It is holding an all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner, March 7.

The dinner costs $5 and will be held from noon until 6 p.m.

The church is eight miles north and two miles east of Holdenville or seven miles west and two miles south of Wetumka.

Tribal briefs

Indian interns sought for museum

OKMULGEE -- The Smithsonian Institution's office of museum programs announces the American Indian Internship Program 1992. The program is open to American Indians and Alaska Natives who are currently enrolled in a higher education program or who are currently employed in a field related to museum work or cultural programming. Six projects are offered for the 1992 summer session, which runs June 22 to Aug. 14. Applications must be received before or on March 2, 1992. Applications may be faxed only if the original copies are postmarked no later than March 2. For more information, contact Janet Wise, Creek Nation Children and Family Services, (918) 756-2112.

Orthodontic screenings slated

SAPULPA -- Screnings for students and patients ages 10-19, seeking orthodontic treatment will be held Feb. 28, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Eufaula, Okmulgee and Sapulpa dental clinics.

To qualify for the program, patients must be enrolled Creek citizens, willing to commit to lengthy treatment, maintain good oral health and must be evaluated at one of the three dental clinics. The program is not intended for cosmetic purposes.

Creek Festival committee to meet

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo Committee will meet Feb. 18, beginning at 6 p.m. in the elder's dining room at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee. Communities and tribal towns are encouraged to send one representative for positive input in the planning of the 1992 festival, according to a release from Donna Anderson, committee secretary. The 1992 festival will be June 19-21. Volunteers are also welcome.

Lighthorsemen seeking dispatcher

OKMULGEE -- The Lighthorse administration is accepting applications for a dispatcher/secretary through Feb. 23. Applicant must be able to work swing shift if needed. Minimum requirements include no felony conviction, and type 40 words per minute. Salary is negotiable.

Send resume, and address all inquiries to Abe McIntosh, personnel director, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Former Creek Nation Princess exchanges vows

YARDEKA -- Melinda Taryole, Henryetta, and Kendall Thompson, Yardeka, were united in holy matrimony Dec. 21, 1991.

The couple were wed at Yardeka Baptist Church, with the Rev. Tim Walker officiating.

Serving as Taryole's matron of honor was her aunt, Darlene Taryole. The father of the groom, Timmy Thompson, was best man.

Flower girls were Ashley Bruner and Billie Proctor. Ringbearer was Kevin Hill.

Mrs. Thompson, 24, is the daughter of Betsy and Sonny Taryole, Henryetta. Her maternal grandparents are Tom and Lillie Gouge, Dallas, Texas and paternal grandparents are Van and Sophie Taryole, Okemah.

Thompson, 22, is the son of Timmy and Joyce Thompson.

Paternal grandparents are the late George Thompson Sr. and Bessie Fife Thompson of Yardeka.

Mrs. Thompson is a member of Peach Ground Ceremonial Ground and Thompson is a member of Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are 1986 and 1988 graduates of Henryetta High School.

The couple is residing in Lawrence, Kan. where they attend Haskell Indian Junior College.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Thompson

Creek Nation birth announcements and birthdays

Cara Louise Alexander

Alexander

HENRYETTA -- Cara Louise Alexander celebrated her second birthday Jan. 12, eating pizza at Mazzio's and then going to her grandparents for ice-cream, cake and presents. Her party theme was the muppet babies. Those helping her celebrate were her parents, Jeff and Alison Alexander of Henryetta; grandparents, John Joe and Leah Asbury of Henryetta; Carrie and Roy Alexander of Porum; great aunt, Carol Morris of Tulsa; aunts and uncles, Augustine Asbury of Henryetta; Gay and Austin Asbury of Okmulgee, Jeff and Donna Johnson of Keota; cousins, Daphne and Stevy Asbury of Henryetta; Meranda, Mitchell, Duke and Jeffery Johnson all of Keota; and friends, Bud and Lynn Prullage of Henryetta.

William Daniel Roberts

Roberts

MORRIS -- William Daniel Roberts celebrated his third birthday Dec. 30 at his grandparents home in Beggs. His parents are Danny and Janell Roberts of Morris. Grandparents are Stanley Roberts of Okmulgee and William and Eillene McLaughlin of Beggs and Irene Morgan of Mounds.

Minah Mesolo Birdcreek

CLEARVIEW -- Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Birdcreek of Clearview, announce the birth of their fourth child, a daughter named Minah Mesolo. She was born at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada, Dec. 14, 1991 at 10 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 1/2 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Birdcreek of Weleetka, and the late Paul and Amanda Jimboy. Great-grandmother is Melissa Harjo of Okemah.

Hollyn Paige Beaver

Beaver

BATON ROUGE, La. -- Hollyn Paige Beaver was born Dec. 4, 1991. She weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and measured 20 and 1/2 inches.

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dane Beaver, of Baton Rouge, La. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rouillier of Gonzales, La. and Mr. and Mrs. Vance D. Beaver of Kinder, La. Great-grandparents are the late Stella and Amos Beaver of Broken Arrow. Hollyn was welcomed home by her 2-year old sister, Jade.

Melissa Ecoce Diacon

Diacon

TAHLEQUAH -- Melissa Ecoce Diacon was born Aug. 4, 1991 at W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital, Tahlequah, to Johnnie Lee and Karen Onsae Diacon. The baby weighed eight pounds, five ounces and measured 19 and seven-eighths inches at birth. Melissa is the baby sister of Mika Chilali Diacon. Maternal grandparents are Burton and Gladys Onsae of Kykotsmovi, Ariz. Paternal grandparents are Delmer and Helen Diacon and the late Margaret Harjochee. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Adam and Jennie Harjochee of Okemah.

Bradley Dale Meely

HOLDENVILLE -- The parents of Bradley Dale Meely would like to announce the first birthday of their only child.

Meely was born Feb. 22, 1991 to Preston James Meely and Sharon Kay Roberts, Holdenville.

His maternal grandmother is Emma Rose Jacobs, Ryal Community.

Elizabeth Fixico, Holdenville, is his paternal grandmother.

His maternal uncles are Raymond and Arnold Meely, Holdenville.

Meely belongs to the bear clan and Hickory Ground and Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds.

Kendra Ann Berryhill

Berryhill

SCHULTER -- On Jan. 11, Kendra Ann Berryhill celebrated her fourth birthday at the home of her great-great uncle and aunt, Nathan and Pauline Pakoska Billy.

Enjoying the party and dinner was her great-grandfather, Rev. Thomas Berryhill Sr., Wilson Community; her grandfather and step-grandmother, Thomas and Janice Berryhill, Duck Creek; and her parents and sister, Mark, Verdie and Amanda Blanche Berryhill, Lawrence, Kan. Her paternal great-grandmother is the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill. Jean Wacoche Berryhill, Eudora, Kan. is her paternal grandmother. Maternal grandparents are John and the late Bah Nelson, Chi-Chil-Tah, N.M.

Kendra, full-blood Mvskoke-Navajo, is of the red brick house clan. She is the daughter of the racoon clan and Tuckabatchee Tribal Town.

Former Creek Princess to exchange nuptials, students earn awards reading and shooting hoops

TULSA -- Alice King, a former Creek Nation Princess, announces her engagement to Ken Baily of Tulsa. The couple has set a Feb. 15 wedding date. The ceremony will be held at the Evangelistic Temple, 54th and Peoria, in Tulsa beginning at 2 p.m.

King is the daughter of Joyce and Turner Bear of Tahlequah and the granddaughter of the late Mose and Violet Freeman Childers.

A graduate of Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, King is an intern at Okmulgee Child Guidance Center. She is working toward her master's degeree in counseling.

Baily is orignally from Los Angeles. He is employed by Oral Roberts Ministries as the director of tax and accounting.

All family and friends of the couple are invited to attend their wedding. Following a brief honeymoon, Alice and Ken will make their home in Tulsa.

Creeks in service

Richard Long

Long

PHOENIX -- Richard Long, a graduate of Carl Hayden High School, Phoenix, Ariz., is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He joined in 1989. From May 1990 through May 1991, Long was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He is currently stationed at Camp Lejune, N.C. Long is single and his permanent residence is Phoenix. He is the son of Beverly Long, Phoenix. His maternal grandparents are Harry and Mulsey Tarpalechee Long of Phoenix.

Eufaula student earns reading award

EUFAULA -- Justin Jones, was awarded a certificate of achievement for reading 10 books in three weeks. Justin is a first-grade student at Dixie Elementary School in Eufaula. Justin's parents are Jimmie and Jenice Jones of Eufaula. Grandparents are the late Rev. Austin and Mamie Barnett. Paternal grandparents are Walter Jones and the late Mary Jones of Okmulgee.

Preston youth wins shooting contest

Waller

PRESTON -- Gwen Waller, 10-year-old fifth grader from Preston, won the recent Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest for Okmulgee County after competing against 14 other area girls. She represented the county in the district competition Jan. 25, at Roger's State College in Claremore. Waller placed fourth, after twice tying for third. Waller has played basketball for three years at Preston. Waller is the daughter of Gayla and Brad Waller of Preston. Grandparents are Wanda Froman of Dewar, and Jim and Beverly Waller of Preston. She is the great-grandaughter of Ester Kelly and the late Willie Kelly of Dewar.

Creek Housing Authority announces vacancies

OKMULGEE -- The Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the following positions: executive director; deputy director; chief accounting officer; counselor; secretary to the executive director; and accounts payable clerk.

Applications for the above positions will be accepted until Feb. 21. Additional information and application forms may be obtained from the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma. P.O. Box 297, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

The authority administers a housing program consisting of 328 low-rent units, 1,402 new mutual help housing units, and 136 old mutual help housing units.The authority is also eligible for comprehensive grant funding of approximately $3 million a year and has an ongoing Comprehenisve Improvements and Assistance program of approximately $2.5 million.

The Creek Nation Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer. However, preference for training and employment shall be given to qualified Indian applicants and to qualified applicants who are low income residents of the authority's project area.

Executive director - supervises all activities of the housing authority and is responsible to the board of commissioners for the development, management, and maintenance of the authority's housing units and housing program. College degree or equivalent combination of education and experience required.

Deputy director - assist the executive director and board of commissioners in developing, and maintaining, the housing programs in accordance with the federal regulations of the Indian housing program. Serves as personnel manager. College degree or equivalent combination of education and experience required.

Chief accounting officer - maintains accounts for all housing programs operated by the authority, in accordance with HUD requirements in order to provide to the executive director and the board of commissioners, accurate and up-to-date information regarding the authority's finances. College degree or equivalent combination of education and experience required.

Executive secretary - perform secretarial duties required to assist the executive director in fulfilling his responsibilities in a timely and professional manner. Secretarial degree or equivalent combination of education and experience required.

Accounts payable clerk - disburse accounts payable for housing authority expenditures and maintain files for the accounting department. High school diploma, general equivalency diploma or equivalent experience.

Counselor - provide counseling and general assistance to homebuyers to help them understand all aspects of the mutual help program. High school diploma, GED or equivalent experience required. Mvskoke fluency helpful.

In brief

Communities get food rations

OKMULGEE -- Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities will distribute excess military rations from the war with Iraq.

The tribe's social services program requested some of the food and the National Council appropriated $5,000 to transport the food from Memphis, Tenn..

Jimmy Hill, the tribe's social services manager, said communities will be responsible for distributing the food to community members and then to churches and ceremonial grounds.

The food has been distributed to Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Glenpool, Holdenville, Kellyville, Okemah, Okmulgee, Tulsa and Weleetka Indian communities.

The respective communities will be responsible for the distribution and accounting, Hill said.

The communities should be distributing the food beginning Feb. 10, Hill said.

Education dept. mailing applications

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education program reports that all application forms for the 1992-93 academic year will be mailed during March. The closing date for applications is June 1. Make plans to take the American College Test (ACT), apply for college admission, apply for financial aid, and then request a Creek Nation Higher Education application.

For more information, contact the department at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or by phone at (918) 756-8700.

Indoor stomp dances scheduled throughout Oklahoma

Kellyville club hosts dance at fairgrounds

KELLYVILLE -- The Kellyville Indian Club is hosting a benefit stomp dance Feb. 8 at the Creek County Fairgrounds Arena beginning at 7 p.m.

The club is also having concessions, raffles and a cake walk. Booth space for arts and crafts vendors is available for a $10 fee.

The Creek County Fairgrounds are located four miles west of Sapulpa on U.S. Highway 66. Signs will be posted. For more information, contact Larry Cahwee at (918) 247-6333 or (918) 367-2801, Rita Chalakee at (918) 247-6679 or Darlene Watashe at (918) 247-6414.

Ground members hold dance in Okemah

OKEMAH -- A benefit stomp dance will be held from 6 to 11 p.m., Feb. 8 at the National Guard Armory. The armory is located one mile east of Okemah on U.S. Highway 62 and one-quarter mile south.

A cakewalk will be held, and door prizes will be given away.

Arts and crafts exhibitors are welcome. No booth fee will be charged, although donations will be accepted. Tables and chairs will not be furnished.

Concessions will be available.

The benefit is being held by Peach Ground members Betsy Taryole, and Flora Davis, in order to raise money for their camps.

All ceremonial grounds, as well as the public, are invited to attend the dance. Those attending should bring their own chairs.

For more information, call Betsy Taryole at (918) 652-8231 or Flora Davis at (918) 224-9322.

OU student association hosts stomp dance

NORMAN -- The University of Oklahoma American Indian Student Association will hold a stompdance and pow wow in conjunction with its heritage week.

Its Indian heritage week is slated for March 21 through 28.

The stompdance will be held March 27 and the pow wow will be held March 28.

For more information, call association president N. Bird Runningwater at (405) 360-4090 or AISA sponsor Shannon Freeman at (405) 325-3163.

Indian community slates stomp dance

GLENPOOL -- Glenpool Creek Indian Community and community member James Proctor are holding a stomp dance, Feb. 22.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Supper will be served from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The dancing will begin following the supper.

The dance will be held in the community's activity center. Those attending should provide their own chairs.

Tallahassee benefit dance to be held

OKEMAH -- A benefit stompdance is being held at the Okemah Indian Community Center Feb. 8. The dance is being held by Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground and begins at 7 p.m.

Sapulpa schools hold seventh annual dance

SAPULPA -- Sapulpa Public Schools' Indian Education Program is holding its seventh annual benefit stompdance March 14, 1992.

The dance, sponsored by the school's parent committee, students, and staff will be held at the Creek County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are located four miles west of Sapulpa on U.S. Highway 66.

The benefit will be held from 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., with Bill (Kugee) Supernaw serving as master of ceremonies.

Raffles for a grocery basket, the 50-50 pot, a cake walk, and mini bingo will kick-off the activities.

Supper will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The dance will begin at 7 p.m.

Arts and crafts exhibitors are welcome, but must furnish their own tables and chairs. No booth fee will be charged, but donations will be accepted.

All ceremonial ground members, as well as the public, are invited. Concessions will be available. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

For further information, contact Dwight M. Pickering, Sapulpa Public Schools' Indian Education Office, (918) 224-9322.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

SAMUEL DEO

OKEMAH -- Samuel Deo, 83, of Hanna, died Dec. 31 at the Creek Nation Community Hospital.

Funeral services were held Jan. 4 at Weogufkee Baptist Church, with the Rev. Johnson Roberts officating.

Deo was born June 8, 1908 in Hanna, to Thomas and Nancy Deo. He was a retired farmer. He was a member of the Weogufkee Baptist Church for 40 years.

He is survived by one son, Richard Deo of Norman; one brother, Billie Deo of Hanna; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Burial was in the Weogufkee Cemetery.

LUCY MAE YAHOLA

WETUMKA -- Lucy Mae Yahola, 66 of rural Wetumka, died Jan. 13 at her home.

Yahola was born April 20, 1925 in Hughes County to Rev. Jeffery and Addie Harjo Smith. She was raised in Hughes County, attending the Friendship School. She married Toby Yahola Aug. 20, 1962.

Funeral services were held Jan. 16 at the Pecan Grove Methodist Church, with Revs. James Spencer and Malcolm Tiger officiating. Pallbearers were Gordon Tiger, Richmond Tiger, Joe Tiger Jr., Michael Tiger, Sammy Lee Yahola and Louis Yahola. Burial was at the family cemetery under the direction of Williamson Funeral Home, Wetumka.

She was a member of the Pecan Grove Methodist Church near Yeager. Survivors include her husband, Toby of the home; and several nieces and nephews; other relatives; and many friends.

NATHAN ARRINGTON

TULSA -- Nathan Glen Arrington, 61, of Sapulpa, died Jan. 13 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. Funeral services were held Jan. 15, at Owen Funeral Chapel in Sapulpa, with Rev. Jonas Partridge officiating.

Arrington was born Nov. 10, 1930 in Tulsa and lived in Oklahoma City and Mannford. He attended Daniel Webster High School in Tulsa, before graduating from Capitol Hill High School in Oklahoma City.

He was associated with his father in the Pat Arrington Trucking Co. in Oklahoma City, and taught at the Drumright Vocational-Technical School before opening Mr. Indian's Cowboy Store in Sapulpa, in 1971. Arrington was an active rodeo roper and a member of the All Indian Rodeo Association.

Survivors include: a brother, Bob Arrington; a sister, Dr. Ruth Arrington; a sister-in-law, Jo Arrington of Sapulpa; aunts, Cozetta Atkins and Virginia West both of Sapulpa, Doris Jobe and Mildred Arrington, both of Tulsa; and numerous friends.

Pallbearers were, Walter Atkins, Butch Smith, Rusty Smith, Duroc Farrow, Danny Fowler and Randy Toothman. Honorary bearers were, Earl (Popcorn) Clark, Carl Webb, Charlie Beals and Clarence Cloud.

MICHAEL W. LEWIS

TULSA -- Michael Wayne Lewis, 22, died Dec. 31 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He was born Sept. 27, 1969 at Claremore, to William Don and Waukomis Louise Lewis.

He attended Claremore High School and was a student at Oklahoma State University, Okmulgee. He was also a member of the Locust Grove Covers Chapel Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, George and Elsie Lewis.

Survivors are his mother, Waukomis Louise Lewis of Claremore; his father and step-mother, Don and Mary ''Jo Jo'' Lewis of Foyil; a son, Chebon Rider Lewis of Claremore; brother, Gary Lewis of Bushyhead; sister, Sandra Lewis of Oklahoma City; stepbrother, Mitchell Reavis of Fort Hood, Tex; stepsisters, Melissa Reavis and Tammy Sexton both of Tulsa, and Tonya Smith of Claremore; and maternal grandparents, Rev. Lee and Helen Chupco of Muskogee.

Final rites were held at the Foyil Methodist Church. Burial was in the Wards Grove Cemetery.

LILLY BELL STARR BERRYHILL

OKMULGEE -- Services for Lilly Bell Starr Berryhill, 81, of Okmulgee, were held Jan. 14 at the Tallahassee Methodist Church.

Berryhill was born May 15, 1910 in the Salem Community to Lona Starr and Emily Smith Starr. She was a member of the Tallahassee Methodist Church, Okmulgee, and served as Women's Leader for more than 40 years. She was also a former member of Hickory Ground #2.

Preceding her in death were her parents and her husband, Rev. Togo Berryhill; a half-brother, Eli Starr; half-sisters, Louise Starr Taylor and Mary Hicks Smith.

Surviving relatives include sons, Bob C. King of Tulsa, and Alfred Berryhill of Okmulgee; daughters, Emily King Bunny of Henryetta, and Veronica Scott of Tulsa; eight grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Revs. George Bruner, Thomas Long and John Buckner officiated the service. Interment was in the Tallahassee Methodist Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Rusty Powell, Howard Smith, Faren Bunny, Kenneth Scott, Monty Bunny and Greg Berryhill.

MAE MILLER MITCHELL

BROKEN ARROW -- Mae Miller Mitchell, 78, of Muskogee, died Nov. 17, 1991 in Broken Arrow. She was born May 24, 1913 in Okmulgee County to Thomas and Lucinda Tiger Miller. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Warlecy Mitchell on Feb. 10, 1973. She lived in Oklahoma all her life and was retired from Furr's Cafeteria.

Survivors include three sons, Jimmy D. Mitchell of Broken Arrow, Robert Lee of Houston, Tex., and Joseph D. of Rapid City, S.D.; one daughter, Jeannette Smith of Muskogee; three brothers, Norman and Harold Miller both of Bixby, and Frank Miller of Haskell; one sister, Agnes Carr of Apache; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held at Snake Creek Baptist Church. Interment was in Snake Creek Cemetery.

SALLY BRUNER

SAPULPA -- Funeral services were held for Sally Elizabeth Bruner, Jan. 13 at Pickett Chapel Methodist Church with the Revs. Mike Harjo and Thomas Long officiating.

Bruner, a lifelong Sapulpa resident, died Jan. 10 at her home.

Burial was in the Green Hills Memorial Gardens, Sapulpa.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Watashe, Joe W. Watashe, Cecil Watashe, Dennis Barnett, Robert Davis and Kenneth Tiger.

Honorary bearers were, Cheyenne Watashe, Richard Wildcat, Robbie Harry, Charles Watashe, Allen Ray Watashe and Ronnie Watashe.

HENRY FRANK

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Henry Frank, 91, were held Dec. 5 at the Arbeka Methodist Church with Revs. Walter McGirt and Robert Baker officiating. Frank died Dec. 2 at the Creek Nation Community Hospital.

He was born in Indian Territory in March 1900. He was the son of Tingo and Amanda Jones Frank. He was a retired carpenter and lived in Okfuskee County most of his life. He was a member of the Arbeka Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Ella Geboe; two brothers, William Frank and Joe Frank; and one son Henry Frank Jr.

He is survived by one son, Norman Frank, San Diego, Calif.; two brothers, John L. Frank and Cornelius Frank both of Okemah; sister, Lucille LeClaire of Bristow; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Interment was in the Arbeka Cemetery.

GROVER WILLIAM HILL JR.

DEPEW -- Funeral services were held for Tech. Sgt. Grover William Hill Jr., 40, who died in Oklahoma City Jan. 18, 1992.

He was born Jan. 5, 1952 in McIntosh County, and was retired from the U.S. Air Force. He served in the Air Force from 1971 through 1991, and received numerous commendations and awards.

Preceding him in death was his father, Grover William Hill Sr.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Patricia Hill of rural Depew; a son, Toby William Hill of the home; two brothers, Johnson Proctor of Bristow and Felix Hill of Tulsa; two sisters, Leola West of Depew and Arney Proctor of Bristow.

Funeral services were held Jan. 21 at the residence of Nancy Hill in rural Depew. Interment was in the Hill Family Cemetary. Military services were conducted by U.S. Air Force members.

Acknowlegements

We would like to thank all family members and friends for their support and kindness during the loss of our brother, father and uncle, Rocky Randall. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Mvto. Family of Rocky Randall

The family of Mary Tiger Brown would like to express our appreciation for the support and sympathy shown during our recent loss. Special thanks to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Rev. Doug Williams and the Tahlequah Veterans of Foreign Wars. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Mvto.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

JIMMIE H. JONES

MUSKOGEE -- Funeral services for Jimmie H. Jones, 61, were held Jan. 13 at the Montesoma Baptist Church, Haydonville, with Rev. Hiwatha Fixico officiating.

Jones was born June 5, 1930 at Edna to Wesley and Lucinda Jones He died Jan. 9 in Muskogee.

Jones was married to Emma Jean Jones at Okemah. Together they had five daughters. He was an oilfield worker and a member of the Montesoma Indian Baptist Church. He served with the US Armed Forces from 1953 to 1955.

Preceding him in death were his father, Wesley Jones; a brother, Chris Jones; a sister, Polly Horn and grandson, Jimmie Allen Jones.

He is survived by his wife, Joan of the home; his mother, Lucinda Bear of Okemah; five daughters, Della Peeper, Maxine Hubbell and Ceilla Sexton all of Bristow, Theresa Lynn Tucker of Slick, and Margie Childers of Henryetta; one brother, Maxie Bear of Okemah; and 12 grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Bunnie Factor, David Lena, Dennis Canard, Mark Peeper, John S. King and Joe Childers.

Interment was in the Montesoma Cemetery.

ROCKY LEON RANDALL

HENRYETTA -- Rocky Leon Randall, 36, of Henryetta, died Jan. 12, in Henryetta. He was born April 23, 1955 to Bunni and Pauline Birdcreek Randall in Oklahoma City.

He was a stone mason by trade and at the time of death, he was a pipeline x-ray technician and was a member of the IUOE Local #2.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bunnie and Pauline Randall; and a sister, Betty Johnson.

Survivors include a daughter Ginger Randall of Kennewick, Wash.; brothers Steve Randall of Shawnee, Bruce Randall and Togo Randall both of Henryetta, Clifton Randall of Tulsa; two sisters, Linda Kaler of Okmulgee, and Regina Bailey of Broken Arrow; and several loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Arbeka Baptist Church Jan. 15, with Revs. Robert Washington and John Lowe officiating. Interment was in the Arbeka Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Wilbert Lowe, Rex Thompson, Jacob Lowe, Daryl Thompson, Timmie Lowe, Tony Lowe and Marvin Lowe. Honorary pallbearers were Bob Blair, Tommy Fisher, Vic Bailey, Rex Watson and Bunny Jo Carter.

ELLA KING

EUFAULA -- Ella King, 91, of Eufaula, died Jan. 5 at the Lakeview Community Hospital in Eufaula. Funeral services were held Jan. 9, at Tuskegee Baptist Church, with Revs. James Rudolph Colbert and Morris Barnett officiating.

Burial was in the Tuskegee Cemetery.

King was born in McIntosh County, Indian Territory, November 5, 1990 to Charley and Jennie Barnett. She was a member of the Tuskegee Baptist Church. She moved to Okeechobee, Fla., where she lived for 29 years before returning in 1976.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert King; and her parents.

She is survived by a grandson, Allen Stover of Dallas; two great-grandsons; Rodney Stover and Brian Stover both of Dallas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

LOUISA TARLOSHAW

HANNA -- Louisa Tarloshaw, 89, of Hanna, died Dec. 28. Funeral services were held Dec. 31, at the Hanna Indian Community Center, with Rev. Boney McIntosh officiating. Music was provided by Millie Colbert.

Tarloshaw was born March 23, 1903 at Vivian, Indian Territory, to Cosar and Sally Fixico Harjo.

She attended Euchee Boarding School and was a lifelong resident of the Eufaula area. She was an avid homemaker and active church worker. She was a member of the New Arbor Baptist Church. Her favorite pastimes were quilting and fishing.

Survivors include three sons, George Hawkins of Hanna, Judea Harjo of Tulsa, and Paul Harjo of Broken Arrow; one brother, Coweta Chisholm of Stidham; 14 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; and a son, Jack Harjo.

Pallbearers were Daniel Harjo, Lewis Harjo, Alex Harjo, Woodrow Harjo, Steve Harjo and Paul Harjo Jr. Honorary Pallbearers were Marcus Harjo and Ricky Harjo.

Burial was at the Jackson Cemetery.

MARY TIGER BROWN

TAHLEQUAH -- Funeral services for Mary Tiger Brown, 48, of Tahlequah, were held Jan. 23 at the Reed-Culver Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Doug Williams officiating.

Burial was in the Tahlequah City Cemetery. Pallbearers were the Tahlequah Veterans Council.

Brown was born Aug. 23, 1943 in the Indian Health Services hospital in Tahlequah, to Amos and Muriel Green Tiger. She died Jan. 20 at a local hospital.

Brown grew up in Kansas City, Kan., an received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah.

She was a recipient of the American Indian Merit Award while at NSU.

She was an avid painter, active in art organizations, and had been the recipient of several awards from the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee. She also taught art at Tahlequah Junior High School.

She worked with youth in the public school system and in Cherokee Nation programs. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Tahlequah.

She was preceded in death by her stepfather, George Henry; and a brother, Max G. Tiger.

She is survived by her mother, Muriel Henry of Tahlequah; her father, Amos Tiger of Okmulgee; a son, Walter ''Doobie'' Brown Jr. of Tahlequah; a grandson, Timothy Tiger Brown of Westville; two sisters, Dolores Wall of Okmulgee, and Susie Sanders of Tahlequah; and a brother, Tecumseh Tiger of Sand Springs.

JENKINS HAMILTON

TULSA -- Funeral services for Jenkins ''Jenks'' Hamilton, 67, were held Jan. 25, 1992. Hamilton of Henryetta, died Jan. 22 at St. Francis Hospital.

He was born Oct. 17, 1924 in the Ryal Community. He was a member of the Apostolic House of Prayer, Henryetta. He retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in October 1986, after 19 years. He was also a veteran of both World War II and the Korean Conflict, serving with the U.S. Navy.

He married Betty Jo Spurlock May 2, 1946, in Henryetta.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael G. Hamilton on Oct. 11, 1967; his parents, George and Emma Hamilton; two brothers, Bob and Bill Hamilton; and a sister, Rachel Estes.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Betty J. Hamilton; one son, Ron Hamilton and wife, Teresa of Henryetta; one daughter, Connie Lane and husband, Joe of the Wilson Community; grandchildren, Jeremy and Haley Hamilton, John, Chris and Jenny Lane and Bonnie Hefner; four sisters, Eunice Lockhart of Henryetta, Augusta Been of Tiger Mountain, Mary Reoh of Raymondsville, Tex., and Dorothy Massey of Red Bluff, Calif; one brother, George Hamilton of San Bernadino, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the First Assembly of God Church in Henryetta. Sister Judy Wainwright officiated with Sister Maxine Vance assisting.

Interment was at the Westlawn Cemetary.

Active pallbearers were Connie Dodge, George Bussey, Bobby Powell, Billy Spurlock, Jimmy Sisson and Jack Young.

ISIAH TATE

BEGGS -- Isiah ''Preacher'' Tate died Jan. 13, in Okmulgee. He was born Sept. 19, 1908 in Horn, Tex.

Tate moved to Beggs and married Marie Munson, who preceded him in death. He later married Annie Grant.

He was a member of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and later Tuskegee Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Annie Tate of Beggs; one son, Wallace Tate of Okmulgee; three sisters, Lillie Munson of Tulsa, Ellen Washington and Ida Swain both of Los Angeles; and one grandchild.

Services were held Jan. 18, at the First Baptist Church South in Beggs, with Rev. Willie Antwine officiating. Pallbearers were Dewitt Antwine, Wesley Antwine, Willie Antwine Jr., Ashiah Antwine, Howard Antwine, and Joe Gibbs.

1. Ce feke cen naorvkates; Hesaketvmese oh uvkvsamatskes; vneu vc oh vkvsvmvkes.
2. Cv'rke hute ofv liketv sulket os; monkaten omat; cem onyvkvyvnt os. Liketvn cem etetkuecvranvkit ayis.
3. momen ayit, liketvn cem etetakuecvkin, hvtvm'rvlakit, ce yvpvyvkares: vnet estvmvn likyat, cemeu mvn vpokatskvren.
- Cane, 14:1-3

Glenpool

continued from page 4

Childers is most impressed with community member Mrs. Gladys Bell, an original allotee. "She's in her 80's, but comes to every regularly scheduled meeting."

He hopes to organize activities to provide city officials, and civic organizations with a better understanding of the community's role. He encourages city officials and organizations to attend community events on special occasions.

And because one of the community's active members is City of Glenpool Police Chief Larry Bible, he believes the community is off on the right foot.

Community member Jim Wilde is the city's former mayor, and member Robert Bible is a former council member. Childers also boasts the efforts of Glenpool District Council Representatives Jerry Wilson, Don Cahwee, and former councilmember Donna Rhodes.

The community employs eight people, and operates a smokeshop and giftshop. In early January, the community received a $35,000 economic development grant from the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. The allocation was applied to the start-up costs of the community's smokeshop, which opened last month.

The community currently holds Yuchi and Mvskoke language classes for around 75 community members. Members Bill Cahwee and James Proctor, recently volunteered to teach the classes, which are free of charge.

The community is currently a distribution site for Desert Storm food. The goods are excess supplies that were not utilized by Desert Storm soldiers. The U.S. government has appropriated the food to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as well as other tribes and organizations.

Lending a hand to its sister communities, Glenpool is storing food for the Duck Creek and Tulsa Creek Indian communities; both organizations do not have centers. Childers said maintaining a good relationship with fellow communities is paramount to having a successful community.

He maintains the community's objective is "being known as the most progressive Creek community in the Creek Nation."

The implementaion of innovative economic development projects, and continuance of activities for community members, of all ages, will bring it closer to its ambitions.

He contends it will reach that goal through continued efforts to make the community self-sufficient. With community ventures in the works, Childers believes the community is coming closer to attaining this goal.

The community may be leasing office space to the Tulsa Indian Youth Council. Among services it will offer to Indian youth are tutoring, youth activities, and speakers that can be identified as role models. The council's headquarters will be housed in the community's activity building, contingent upon its receipt of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

A tour group, Tulsa Tours, has also approached the community in regard to renting the community's facilities.

The group will be offering tour operating companies, throughout the nation, tours of the community. The community will be showcased as an example of successful economic development among contemporary Indians.

The community will receive publicity through placement in tour guides. Childers believes this will offer non-Indians a better awareness of the community and tribe, as well as promote smokeshop and gift shop business.

"We're a very energetic and optimistic board."

Glenpool officers

Ken Childers, chair
Virginia Nichwander, vice-chair
Cheri Haney, secretary
Billie Childers, treasurer
Don Chawee, sergeant-at-arms

Logo

continued from page 4

The term redstick is attributed to Mvskoke warriors who fought in the Redstick War of 1813-14. The battles consisted of attacks upon white frontier families who settled in the southeast. It ensued a civil war between Creeks -- those who were amiable toward the United Stated, and those that exterminated white stettlements.

The team does not have a mascot. If it eventually adopts one, it will not depict Indian imagery, Dittrich said.

"We have no mascot per se -- no smiling Indian, no goofy warrior. If we have a mascot, it will be a red baseball bat with feet and legs," he said.

Dittrich contends they will not promote chants or chops,"but will discourage it (upon occurrence.)"

The redstick warrior will not be marketed in any way, he said. "We don't want to deny the Indian heritage of the area, but we don't want to market it either."

Okmulgee District Representative Thomas Berryhill Jr., says the team should have sought the tribe's permission to use the term. He also believes the tribe should be recompensed. "If they want to capitalize off of something that is specifically unique to us as Mvskoke people, they need to pay us."

He contends Indian people are being further exploited by the white man.

"A lot of Creeks will say `ah, that's nothing,' but white man has exploited us in every way they can.

"Five-hundred and fifty-seven Redstick Warriors died at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. If they want to exploit us with all this [Indian mascot] hype going on, let them pay us."

In response, Dittrich said demanding payment is ridiculous.

"Were not capitolizing on anything other than (that) we're a baseball team. We felt like it was a way to pay tribute to Indian heritage in the area."

"Their token tribute is actually an insult, in consideration of the many that died at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend," Berryhill said.

Berryhill concludes it's "ridiculous" for the team to even want to use a term representive of Indians that terminated their white ancestors.

Transition

continued from page 1

The chief said he wants to see language classes developed, and has begun the preliminary work to establish a language curriculum.

Fife has long advocated planning and management. He was instrumental in developing the tribe's first comprehensive plan.

Early in the 1991 campaign for chief, Fife made planning a significant part of his platform. Fife also challenged the Council with a specific agenda.

That agenda includes adoption of an employee merit system, improvement of enrollment procedures, and establishing procedures to ensure smoother transitions between administrations.

Fife told the Council a merit system would guarantee employee security and improve quality. Also, a merit system would enhance recruitment of Creek professionals to work for the tribe.

Tribal statistics

Tribal employees at complex: 331
Creek Nation hospital and clinics: 163
Creek Nation Tulsa bingo: 132
Creek Nation's Okmulgee bingo: 37
Number of acres in trust status: 5,600
Number of facilities: 67 (valued at $7.8 million)
FY 1992 tribal budget: $13.2 million
Number of chartered communities: 20
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow

The chief said it was important to have an accurate tribal census. Fife noted that the present enrollment numbers are not compatible with Bureau of Indian Affairs figures.

Finally, Fife urged the transition procedures be adopted to make the change easier and cause no disruption in programs and services. His efforts to get an overview of the government have been hampered by inaccurate record keeping, few established operational procedures and other problems.

Fife asked the Council to join him in fulfilling the mission of tribal government.

"Today's vision, often enough is tomorrow's reality," Fife said.

McGirt

continued from page 1

other tribes' clothing is so elaborate when you go to pow wows? That was a motivating factor for me. It started out as something fun; I never thought it would turn into a business.''

He focuses on the dress of the Mvskoke-Seminole male from various periods. The clothes he designs are ornate, and representative of clothing Mvskoke-Seminole males might have worn on visits to ceremonial grounds or on special occasions.

In 1989 through 1990, McGirt served three internships at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

His first two internships entailed the study of men, and womens' southeastern dress. His most recent internship consisted of studying southeastern beadwork. McGirt said research was challenging because, as far as clothing, Mvskokes have no material culture that exists prior to the 1830's.

''We don't have access to anything earlier, only manuscripts and crude drawings.''

McGirt contends it's important to remember that the Mvskoke and Seminole tribes were once one people. After their separation, they continued to trade materials, clothing and gifts, he said.

By the late 1700s, Mvskokes and Seminoles were wearing clothes made out of a combination of cloth and buckskin. The first materials arriving from England were only 18 inches wide, thus strips of cloth were sewn together. From this evolved a style of clothing utilizing contrasting colors, McGirt said. The colors were arranged in such a way that was eye-appealing to native people, he said.

Today most belts or sashes, commonly worn at ceremonial dances, are around three and one-half inches wide and are loom woven. Early belts were much wider -- around eight and one-half inches -- and were finger woven from cochineal (brilliant red) or indigo died lambswool.

Its diamond design was also ornamented with pony or seed beeds, he said. A belt of 11 and one-half inches can take a year to a year and one-half to complete. Leg garters, worn around the upper calf, matched the belts.

Leggings were made from buckskin, and, opposed to side seams usually seen on western leggings, had front seams.

Moccasins were soft-soled, and had a top seam. They were sewn with sinew or buckskin thong. They were decorated with beadwork of a floral design.

''(Mvskokes and Seminoles) very typically used designs seen in nature -- flowers, vines -- you very rarely saw geometrical type designs,'' said the self-taught beadworker.

Moccasins of this nature take McGirt around a month and one-half to complete. Leggings are completed in a week and one-half.

The bandolier bag was used for carrying personal items such as flint, steel, money, face paint or medicine. Mvskoke-Seminole clothing had no pockets thus the bag was a necessity. It was usually made from red, dark blue or black wool strouding. This wool originated in Stroud, England, and is now commonly referred to as broadcloth, McGirt said. The bag was ornamented with an applique style of beadwork sewn directly on the fabric. Mvskokes and Seminoles didn't reproduce beadwork patterns, each design was unique to that individual, he said. One characteristic of Mvskoke-Seminole bags were asymmetrical straps; each side of the strap had different designs. McGirt's patterns also are original.

''I don't do reproductions, but my patterns are inspired from patterns on old bags.''

McGirt said the creation of the bandolier bag is the most time consuming. It takes anywhere from six months to one-year to complete a bag; its price starts at $800 and escalates. He said the same bag might sell for $3,000 in 20 years.

''It's not really Creek people buying the clothing, its usually non-Indians buying. They usually put it away for investment purposes.''

McGirt said antique bandolier bags are sold for as much as $23,000 to $40,000 at such auctions houses as Sothebys, New York.

Turbans were made from paisley shaws. They were were adorned with ostrich plumes, introduced from Africa and egret feathers.

The long coat was made from a floral print or striped cotton. The ruffles around the shoulder-area, as well as the general yoke-area, were embellished with numerous buttons or broaches.

Shirts were made of muslin, which was ruffled at the neck and sleeves. A black silk scarf was also tied around the collar.

''Creeks are very fond of ruffles, so true to form, all of this has ruffles,'' he said of the long coat and shirt.

The apron, a breechcloth-type garment similiar to underwear, was made of velvet or broadcloth. It was covered with floral-style beadwork. The apron takes McGirt two months to complete.

Other adornments included a necklace of one or more gorgets, trade beads, arm bands and earrings. ''Wearing earrings were a sign of class. You had to be a good hunter or grow good crops to be able to afford this stuff.''

With his clothing ranging from $2,000 to $8,000, McGirt contends it's not something people hastily purchase.

''The cost of materials is an investment when you think of $2000 to $3000 worth of clothing.''

The Mvskoke male's everyday attire would have consisted of a cotton shirt, buckskin leggings and simple moccasins. ''Creeks, even at times, wore stroud blankets,'' he said.

Although he does not create southeastern women's clothing, he has done extensive research on the subject. Orginally, Mvskoke women wore no garments on their upper body. If a garment was worn, it was a buckskin poncho top with fine fringe. A fringed, wrap-a-round buckskin skirt was worn with leggings and moccasins.

After European contact, the poncho top was replaced with a calico shirt. Calico material was introduced into England from India, McGirt said. Broadcloth wrap-a-round skirts were trimmed with floral and leaf beadwork designs.

After removal, the introduction of the dominant culture, and Christianity contributed to the loss of Mvskoke material culture, McGirt contends.

''(Christianity) was one of the things that did eradicate Creek dress. We got here and we just became real civilized. Christianity became very important to Creek people, thus traditional clothing became predominantly worn at the dances.''

McGirt believes it is something Mvskokes have not lost, but misplaced.

''The Florida Seminoles have more of a grip on what traditional clothing is about; we have forgotten. For me, it's like fulfilling a childhood wish. If there's one thing I'd like to stress, it's not letting it die again.''

McGirt gives interprative demonstrations at museums and throughout the nation. Indians and non-Indians have responded well. ''*Este hvtkes* never thought of Indians existing in the southeast. Comments have been very positive from southeastern Indians and other Indians.''

He said his family is very supportive. McGirt, originally from the Mason area, is the son of John and the late Lena McGirt.

McGirt's work can be seen in museums such as the Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis, Ind. and the Smithsonian Institution.

At times, it seems the only appreciation is coming from museums and white collectors, he said.

''(Museums) have the written word -- we don't. Not to say it is most important, but it does hold some value,'' he said in regard to his research.

McGirt cites the late Marie Henry, of Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground, as his earliest inspiration. As a youth, he watched her at Okfuskee Ceremonial Ground, taking note of her traditional clothing. ''I was a secret admirer of her from afar -- what she was doing.'' Henry was a textile artist in her own right, said McGirt.

He credits Woodrow Haney, Seminole, for motivating, and supporting him. The late Claude Medford, a Louisiana Choctaw, was also one of his biggest supporters. ''He was a walking archive; his death was indeed a loss,'' he said of Medford, who often assisted him in research.

It is the inspiration of hope that drives McGirt most -- the hope that Mvskokes will someday reclaim what is rightly theirs. And the hope that it will be commonplace at the ceremonial grounds.

''It (Mvskoke dress) continues to evolve; it continues to change. In time, what is not traditional -- will become traditional. Levis and cowboy hats -- that too, has become traditional. I hope it evolves back to this in my lifetime; I'd like to see someone leading with a turban and long coat.''

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay McGirt, 38, resides in Bixby. He belongs to the wind clan and Tuckabatchee Tribal Town. He is a member of the Creek Council House Cultural Committee.

Fife faces first sovereignty challenge from state

Chief likens House bill to an act of war

Principal Chief Bill Fife did not have long to wait before facing his first challenge from the state of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma House of Representatives approved an amended version of House Bill 1979 that would allow the Oklahoma Tax Commission to collect state taxes on smokeshop sales to non-Indians.

For Fife, beginning his third month as principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the proposed legislation was Oklahoma's most serious attack on tribal sovereignty to date.

In a prepared statement, Fife likened the state's efforts to an act of war.

"The tax commission refuses to recognize that tribes are not taxable entities," Fife said. "Unless the state of Oklahoma de-escalates its war against the tribes, tribal cooperation on matters critical to the state's future will not be forthcoming."

The chief mobilized tribal officials, citizens, and employees to gather at the state capitol March 3, the day of the vote.

Though amended and approved by a 55-39 vote, the bill now goes to the state Senate for its consideration and will then return to the House.

The bill, authored by Midwest City Democart Jim Isaac, would have required the tribes to affix the Oklahoma tax stamp on tobacco products sold to non-tribal members. Presently, that state tax is 23 cents a pack.

Also, the bill would have required tribes to purchase cigarettes from licensed Oklahoma wholesalers and document the amount of taxed and exempted tobacco products sold.

Presently, the tribe does not collect any state tax on tobacco products sold to non-Indians at smokeshops.

Smokeshops were purchasing cigarettes from state wholesalers as late as 1990, but the OTC threatened those wholesalers with legal action if they continued doing business with the Indians.

Apparently, the bill was urged by the Oklahoma Tax Commission as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court

please see **WAR**, page 12

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 3
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
March 1992, 12 Pages

Oklahoma House approves amended tax bill after heated debate

by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate Editor

Citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling making cigarettes sold to non-tribal members taxable, the state House of Representatives passed a bill which Oklahoma Indians believe violates tribal sovereignty.

House Bill 1979, authored by representative Jim Isaac, D-Midwest City, would give the Oklahoma Tax Commission permission to collect state taxes from Indian smokeshops which sell cigarettes to non-tribal members. It would require smokeshop retailers to buy stamped cigarettes from Oklahoma wholesalers. It allows the tax commission to confiscate ''contraband cigarettes,'' or unstamped cigarettes being transported to Indian smokeshops. It also stipulates tribal smokeshops must register with the commission in order to sell stamped cigarettes.

After passing two amendments to the legislation, the bill was passed to the Senate on a 55-39 vote.

The amendments eliminated a provision for law enforcement agencies and the OTC to split the revenue collected from confiscated cigarettes and several sections of the proposal were removed, weakening the bill.

The amendments were sponsored by Tulsa Rep. Don Ross, who claims Creek and Cherokee heritage, and Norman representative Carolyn Thompson. Both passed with significant margins.

Last year's high court ruling in the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe case supported the commission's authority to collect taxes on sales to non-tribal smokeshop patrons. The ruling however, didn't provide provisions for collection. Isaac was motivated to author the bill as a means for the commission to collect the taxes, which he believes are owed the state.

''The supreme court, in my opinion, and the

please see **DEBATE**, page 12

Methodist version of green corn ceremony in its ''Book of Worship'' stirs controversy

by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Assocaite Editor

As late as 1841, Mvskoke mekkos banned preaching, contending missionaries disrupted *posketv* (green corn), stickball games and dances.

By 1845, Methodist and Baptist missionaries were engaged openly in mission work in Creek country. That same year, the tribal town confederacy penalized anyone who shirked the ''black drink'' ceremony.

Baptists and Methodists believed it ''wrong to dance,'' and eventually, Creek ceremonial dances no longer were important to converted Mvskokes.

This history makes the the United Methodists' possible publication of a Christianized service, based on the green corn ceremony, strangely ironic.

The service is to be published in the United Methodist Book of Worship. Its objective is to enhance worship with the inclusion of Christianized versions of other religious ceremonies and prayers. Being the only ceremony of Native American nature, the intent of its inclusion is to familiarize Christian churches with Indian spirituality.

Rev. Fred Shaw, Shawnee United Remnant Band of Maineville, Ohio, is the author of the

please see **BOOK**, page 11

Housing authority names Mvskoke new executive director

Joe Jackson says he is bringing enthusiasm to his role as the executive director of the Creek Nation Housing Authority.

The Okmulgee resident was selected at a March 10 special meeting of the housing authority board of commisioners.

''I'm very enthusiastic about the opportunity to work for my people and with the board,'' Jackson said of his hiring.

''I'm aware that this position has tremendous responsibility, but I also believe I'm capable of fulfilling that responsibility.''

please see **JACKSON**, page 12

Fife's transition slow and deliberate

editorial by Jim Wolfe
MNN Editor

Principal Chief Bill Fife had been in office less than a month when he told the National Council, in his state of the nation address, that procedures for an orderly transition must be developed.

Fife has been frustrated thus far in his administration. Though he was a National Council representative and a former tribal director, familiar with the mechanics of government, nothing could have prepared him fully to assume responsibility for the operations of a bloated tribal bureaucracy.

Following one man's 20-year administration has also proved frustrating. When Fife began searching for policies, rules, and regulations, he came up empty.

For example, only one copy of the oft-discussed personnel policy could be found in the entire capitol. It didn't contain any of the changes made to it since the previous administration began using the policy in 1978.

There are similar lack of resources in other areas of the government.

Recruiting qualified personnel has also been slow. The search for competent professionals has revealed a certain reluctance by them to leave other federal agencies or the non-Indian corporate world, to work for a tribe whose politics have to date, been volatile.

No job bank or personnel resource directory has ever been created. Ideally, the tribe should be able to locate capable professionals with the skills and desires to work for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Presently, the tribe has little to show for the thousands of dollars invested in the education and training of citizens.

Obviously, without qualified people whose philosophy reflects the goals and direction of the principal chief, molding an efficient workforce will be painstaking.

Also, the chief has had to contend with a Council that is still seeking its identity.

The turnover in the leadership of the tribal legislature has created a wide open Council where representatives are establishing their priorities. The Council does have its own agenda and in a perfect order, it would be identical to the chief's.

External events have also demanded the chief's immediate attention.

The previous administration had filed a lawsuit against the Indian Health Service claiming among other things, false accusations. The suit stemmed from the IHS-Creek Nation dispute over the administration of health funds.

The Fife administration has released the lawyers hired to represent the tribe and will take the case in a different direction.

The move by the Oklahoma House of Representatives to pass a law regulating smokeshops blindsided the administration. An attempt to restrict tribal sovereignty demanded the full attention and resources of not only the administration, but of the tribe as well.

As Fife said, "I've been running from one place to another, trying to put out fires before they burn out of control."

The chief will probably spend the first year of office reorganizing the administration. It will be challenging as Fife wants to maintain the level of services that the various programs have been delivering. Any changes must be made without service disruptions.

The chief is a man of thought first and then action. From his past record as Council represenative and tribal adminstrator, Fife considers proposals from as many perspectives as possible before acting. In an era where instant gratification has become a creed, a man of deliberation can be maddening.

It is still early in the Fife administration. His one hundredth day in office isn't until April. Though time is relative, there is still plenty of it for Fife to fulfill his campaign promises and lead the tribe in his direction.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any poissible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700, (918) 758-0824

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KWSH-Wewoka, am 1260, Wednesdays, 11:05 a.m.
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Suundays, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturdays, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 a.m.

Muscogee Nation News tribal radio program announces changes

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee Nation News radio program, now in its second year of production, is announcing changes in some broadcast times.

The 15-minute program, produced by the tribal communications department, is broadcast weekly as a public service on 13 radio stations throughout east central Oklahoma.

"We've been very fortunate to have the support of the tribal administration and the cooperation of the local radio stations," said Gerald Wofford, Muscogee Nation News Producer.

The program features interviews with guests who discuss current Indian issues, tribal programs and services, culture, and news reports.

"It's tough producing a program every week," Wofford said. "We couldn't do it without some help."

Wofford said he is always looking for subjects and guests for the program. He said he welcomes comments which can be directed to him through the communications department.

In addition to Wofford, the program is edited and hosted by Jim Wolfe, news editor and the lead anchor is Stephanie Berryhill. Anita Freeman is also an anchor and handles administrative duties for the program. Other anchors are Janice Frye, Liz Anne Holata and Kathy Polen.

The Muscogee Nation News radio program can be heard on the following stations. Times and dates are subject to the discretion of the station.

Listed is the city, station, frequency, date, and time of broadcast.

Ada, KADA, am 1230, Sunday, 7 a.m.
Claremore, KNGX, fm 91.3, Sunday, 3 p.m.
Cushing, KUSH, am 1260, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
Eufaula, KCES, fm 102.3, Friday, 8 a.m. and Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
Henryetta, KDLB, am 1590, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Henryetta, KVAZ, fm 91.5, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Muskogee, KMMY, fm 97.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
Okmulgee, KOKL, am 1240, Thursday, 12:40 p.m.
Shawnee, KGFF, am 1450, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Tahlequah, KTLQ, am 1350, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Tulsa, KTRT, fm 102.1, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Wagoner, KTRT, fm 102.1, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Wewoka, KWSH, am 1260 Wednesday, 11:05 a.m.

Letters to the editor and Second Chief Shelly Crow's column will return in the April edition of The Muscogee Nation News.

Council approves criminal and traffic code

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved a tribal criminal and traffic code, but rejected a tobacco tax increase at its February session.

The 31-member tribal legislature spent little time debating what had been a controversial issue and approved the codes overwhelmingly.

This is the fourth time the Council has voted on criminal and traffic codes. It has been approved by a majority of the Council all four times, but February's vote was the first for the class of 1992-93 and the first time in the Fife administration.

Tulsa District Rep. Larry Bible, the bill's author, gave his perspective of the measure.

''We're not making criminals out of law abiding citizens,'' Bible told the Council. ''These are the same laws you'll be under when you leave (tribal property).''

Both codes passed with identical 24-2 margins.

The Council hedged on increasing tobacco taxes, defeating McIntosh District Rep. Tommy Pickering's proposal.

Several representatives said they would wait for a resolution to an Oklahoma House bill that attempts to require the tribe and smokeshop owners to assess and collect state sales tax on all sales to non-tribal members.

Pickering's bill would increase the tribal tax four cents on cigarettes for individually-owned smokeshops and two cents a pack for community licensed smokeshops.

The current tribal tax is five cents per pack. The Oklahoma tax is 23 cents per pack.

The tribal increase in revenue would have been restricted for economic development projects, grants for ceremonial grounds, churches, and for tribal lobbyists.

In other business the Council:

-- authorized the Gaming Operations Authority Board to begin negotiating with Oklahoma for a class III gaming compact. Class III gaming is anything other than traditional games, bingo, and pull tabs;

-- authorized a revocable permit for the City of Tulsa to perform tests on tribal property. The tribe and the city are negotiating an easement for Tulsa's extension of Riverside Drive. The tribe will be provided the results of the tests;

-- confirmed Eliza Hicks of Henryetta, to the tribal citizenship board;

-- amended the orthodontic program bill to require participants to prove tribal enrollment before seeking orthodontic services;

-- appropriated $162,500 to the Duck Creek Indian Community to construct a multi-purpose facility;

-- repealed a lease between the tribe and Paul Grace. The lease is for a sand and gravel operation on tribal property at the Mackey Sand Bar site. Tulsa District Rep. Irene Cleghorn alleged Grace has been selling top soil and accepting construction debris for fill. The lease has been approved by the previous

please see **COUNCIL**, page 11

Holdenville Indian Community back in business after shutdown

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

HOLDENVILLE -- An order recently issued from Muscogee (Creek) District Tribal Court has allowed the Holdenville Indian Community to reopen its smokeshop and continue bingo licensing procedures.

Judge Patrick Moore's Feb. 17 order also stipulates the community must have an audit conducted by Horne and Co., an accounting firm, for the period of Oct. 1, 1991 to May 31, 1992. The results of the audit must be reported to the court and community at large. According to the firm's earlier audit, for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1991, it found the community in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Litigation against community officers Fred Lowe, former chair; Raymond Buck, vice-chair; Susanna Franks, treasurer; Fred Beaver, member; and Malcolm Tiger, member, was initiated last September by community members Clarence Johnson and Kenneth McGirt. On Sept. 18, Johnson and McGirt, the plaintiffs, requested a writ of mandamus and asked the court to suspend all activities of the community for 16 listed reasons. One of the 16 reasons alleged the community's original by-laws were replaced by another set of by-laws.

On Nov. 18 the writ of mandamus was partially granted. It applied to five items:

-- the ratification of the amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the community;

-- conflict of interest in regard to officers/boardmembers being employees of the community;

-- prudent business practices not being followed;

-- security officers for the community not being liscensed;

-- and building availability to all community members on an equal basis.

On Dec. 20, the court issued a contempt citation to the community officers. The citation was issued because of their violation of the Nov. 18 order. Supreme Court Justice Michael Flud, sitting as district court judge, ordered the closing of the smokeshop.

please see **HOLDENVILLE**, page 12

Public health nurses offer children immunizations at tribal health clinics

OKEMAH -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation public health nurses are promoting children's immunization during March.

Mary Washington, a public health nurse at the Okemah Health Clinic, said the promotion is to remind people that children need to have their immunizations.

''We're concentrating on school age children down to (infants),' Washington said.

''There are a lot of young children living with their grandparents,'' Washington said. ``We have to educate the adults about the importance of having those children immunized.''

Any one can bring children to the clinics for immunizations, but must have written permission for the immunizations from the parents or guardian, Washington said.

Children need immunization for the following:

-- Diptheria-Pertussis-Tetanus (DPT). Diptheria is a bacterial disease affecting the throat and in some cases, the nose. Pertussis is also known as whooping cough. Tetanus is an acute disease of the nervous system. It is frequently called lockjaw because one of the early symptoms is a paralyzing spasm of the muscles involved with opening the mouth. Children should receive DPT at ages two, four, six, and 15 months and between four and six years. Boosters are recommended every 10 years after;

-- Polio vaccines are given orally. This should be taken at ages two, four, and 15 months and again prior to beginning school;

-- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR). Children should have this immunization at 15 months and prior to beginning school;

-- Haemophilus influenza b conjugate vaccine (HIB). ''Most people think this is a flu shot,'' Washington said. However, the HIB bacteria is the most frequent cause of bacterial meningitis and a leading cause of serious, systemic bacterial disease in young children worldwide. This vaccine should be given at ages two, four, and 12 months.

Every effort should be made to immunize infants and children in the proper sequence at ages two, four, six, and 15 months. However, if they begin late the sequence can still continue at ages three, five, seven, and 15 months. Children must also receive an immunizations booster before they begin school.

Washington said the public health nurses should be notified if children have any reactions to the medicine or if they are allergic to the medicines.

The immunizations can be given at any clinic from 1 to 4 p.m. All clinics are closed Wednesday afternoons.

The public health nurses can be contacted at the following clinic numbers: Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah, 623-0555; Okemah clinic, 623-1424, Eufaula clinic, 689-2547, and Sapulpa clinic - 224-9310.

Creeks observe births & birthdays

Jamie Bruner

Ryan Messer

Taylor McClellan

Tenetke Whitecloud

Jamie Lynne Bruner

CLAREMORE -- Jamie Lynne Bruner was born Dec. 1, 1991 at Claremore Indian Hospital. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces. Parents are John and Juanita Bruner of Tulsa. Maternal grandparents are Evan Dick of Sperry, and Dorothy Smith of Tulsa. Maternal great-grandparents are Louvina Hickory and the late William Sunday. Paternal grandparents are Randolph Bruner of Tulsa and Frances Sunday. Great-grandparents are Lizzie Leader and the late Dick Bruner. Great-aunt is Lizzie Bruner of Yeager, and great-uncle is Jeff Leader of Wetumka.

Matthew Ryan Messer

MUSKOGEE -- Matthew Ryan Messer celebrated his first birthday in November with a party at his home. Helping him celebrate were his parents, Kenneth and Lou Ann Messer, his grandparents, Thomas and Mattie Long, Bruce and Edna Messer, and all his aunts, cousins and friends.

Taylor McClellan, Tenetke Whitecloud

PAWNEE -- A dinner, ice cream, and cake was served in honor of Taylor Elizabeth McClellan to celebrate her second birthday Jan. 6th in her home at Pawnee. Taylor is the daughter of Teresa and Billy McClellan Sr. Grandparents are Elvina and Frank McClellan Sr. of Chandler, and Norma Sampson Bible of Okmulgee. Taylor is Creek-Otoe- Sac and Fox-Iowa. Mabel Hill of Preston, is her maternal great-grandmother.

Also celebrating a birthday is Tenetke (Thunder) Whitecloud.

Jimmy Dan Asbury

HOLDENVILLE -- Donnie Asbury and Angie Long of Holdenville announce the birth of their son Jimmy Dan, born Jan. 30 at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches in length. Paternal grandparents are Frank and Rachel Asbury of Wetumka; and Nellie and the late Rev. Jimmy Asbury of Weleetka; the late Issac and Hepsey McGirt of Wetumka. Maternal grandparents are Harold and Minnie Long of Holdenville. Gary Asbury of Wetumka, is an uncle.

Sarah Ann and Michael Wayne Fixico

SEMINOLE -- Sarah Ann Fixico celebrated her first birthday Dec. 28. Her brother Michael Wayne Fixico celebrated his second birthday on February 8th. They are the children of Maedine Sanders of Cromwell, and Johnny Mike Fixico of Seminole.

Maternal grandparents are Jimmie and Leona Sanders of Cromwell. Maternal great-grandparents are Samson Butcher Sr. and the late Mary Jane Yargee Butcher of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Henry and Ann Hicks of Shawnee, and John Fixico of Sapulpa.

Robinson, Young chosen students of the month

COWETA -- Kevin Robinson and Rachel Young have been named January Students of the Month at Coweta high School.

Robinson

Kevin is the son of Nolen and Lenora Robinson. His maternal grandparents are Edith Harjoe of Cromwell and the late Ben Harjoe. Paternal grandparents are Rebecca Lindsey of Wewoka and Nolen Robinson Sr. of Okemah.

Robinson's activities include four years of football and weight lifting. His achievements and awards include: selected for Who's Who; and Honorable Mention All Metro football. Robinson enjoys collecting baseball cards, fishing, and hunting.

Robinson plans to attend college and pursue a career in sports medicine.

Young

Young is the daughter of Tom and Mary Clark and Daryl Young. Her maternal grandparents are Rachel and the late Robert Miller. Paternal grandparents are Ben and Margie Young.

Her activities include president of the Future Homemakers of America, yearbook photographer, student council reporter, and vice-president of Students Against Drunk Driving.

Her achievements and awards include: senior class queen; junior and senior football attendant; and Who's Who Among American High School Students. Her hobbies include shopping and visiting with friends. She plans to attend Tulsa Junior College after graduation.

Muscogee students making an impact

Murphy seals Haskell victory

EMPORIA, Kan. -- Patrick Murphy hit a basket with :30 remaining and a free throw at :08 to give Haskell College a 67-65 basketball victory over Emporia State's junior varsity.

Murphy, a graduate of Graham High School, is a Muscogee Creek citizen attending Haskell College in Lawrence, Kan.

Cooper makes honor roll

SHAWNEE -- Cassie Rhea Cooper is one of 22 students on the Shawnee Junior High School honor roll with a 4.0 grade point average.

Cooper

The 13-year old seventh grader is the daughter of Roberta Cooper of Shawnee. She is the granddaughter of Sam and Bessie Cooper of Okemah, and Gwendolyn English of Seminole. She is the great-granddaughter of Corrine English of Seminole.

She is a member of the Prairie Spring Baptist Church. Her hobbies include softball and she is a starting guard on the seventh grade basketball team.

Optimists honor Wildcat

BOULDER, Colo. -- Jacob Wildcat was honored by the Boulder Optimist's Club during its annual youth appreciation awards. Wildcat was presented his award from Ken Brooks, the head of the Boulder Little League Baseball Association.

Wildcat receives award

Brooks said, ''all summer, this 12-year old boy was at the ball fields everyday helping get the fields ready and stayed afterwards to help clean up, even on days that he played. On days that he wasn't playing he would help keep score, work the concession stand, and at times would be either the base umpire or home plate umpire.''

His parents, Wes and Ruby Wildcat, attended the banquet along with his sister Micki and brother Matthew. Wildcat is of Pawnee-Yuchi-Navajo descent. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Wildcat of Tulsa.

Chaudhuri named club president

HANOVER, N.H. -- Jonodev ''Jon'' Osceola Chaudhuri, Muscogee Creek, and a junior at Dartmouth College, has been elected president of Native Americans at Dartmouth, the Amerind Club. Jon is a grandson of the late Rev. Wilburn and Mary Hill and son of Ella Jean (Hill) Chaudhuri.

Creeks in Service

Chebon Wacoche

MUSKOGEE -- Chebon Wacoche, son of Martin and Susannah Wacoche of Tahlequah, has joined the U.S. Army. He contracted for more than $22,000 in college benefits through the Army College Fund, a three-year enlistment and training as a mobile subscriber equipment network transmissions system operator.

Wacoche

Private Wacoche reports May 8 for basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., then to Fort Gordon, Ga. for nearly 10 weeks of advanced training.

''Private Wacoche's decision to join the Army fit together nicely with his concern for earning college money and building a future for himself. Within the past few years, the field of communications and telecommunications has grown increasingly important - so much so that almost every large corporation or government agency literally depends on such devices for successful day-to-day operation. Private Wacoche chose a highly marketable skill - one he can certainly use when seeking civilian employment,'' said his recruiter, Staff Sgt. Timothy McKenzie of the Muskogee Army Recruiting Office.

Powell

Wacoche was the valedictorian of his 1987 high school class and was an all-star player in both football and basketball during his school-boy career. He also attended Northeastern State University, Tahlequah.

Steven Tyrone Powell

FT. JACKSON, S.C. -- Private Steven T. Powell graduated from basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C. Jan. 16. He will receive his advanced infantry training at Ft. Jackson, also. A trip was made by the Sampson Family to visit Powell.

SARAH COKER HICKS celebrated her 91st birthday Feb. 16 at Buckeye Baptist Church. Hicks was featured in the May 1991 edition of The Muscogee Nation News.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

EAGLES
LADY
21
EAGLES

MASON -- Two Mason High School students were named to the All- Tournament Team at the Bowlegs Invitational Tournament. Ernest McPerryman is a senior at Mason High School. Lorena Walters is a junior at Mason. They are the children of Oscar and Mary Walters of Mason, and the grand children of Joe and Lorene Hicks of Mason.

Yuchi veteran picked for governor's committee

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma Governor David Walters appointed Jerry Riley to the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee. Riley is a member of the Native American Veterans Inter-Tribal Association. Riley is Euchee and the son of Ida Clinton Riley. He and his wife, Margaret, make their home in Bristow.

This special committee was formed to advise the governor on veterans programs and benefits; coordinate fund-raising for a Veterans memorial; serve as a focal point for expediting completion of the proposed national cemetery in the Oklahoma City area; and serve as the general oversight committee for veterans programs and services.

The committee is chaired by former State Senator Tom Tipps of Ardmore and will work with the Oklahoma Veterans Council, War Veterans Commission, and all veterans service organizations in developing programs and strengthening programs for veterans.

Don Davis is vice-chair of the committee. For more information, contact John Willis at (405) 521-3684.

Jerry Riley, right, accepts congratulations from Oklahoma Governor David Walters.

Area news

Creek citizen named to Hulbert bank presidency

HULBERT -- Tribal citizen J.D. Colbert has been named president and chief executive officer of the First State Bank, Hulbert.

''I am delighted to be associated with First State Bank and the Hulbert community,'' Colbert said. ''I grew up in rural eastern Oklahoma and welcome this opportunity to return to my roots. I am looking forward to getting to know the people of the greater Cherokee County area.''

A 1979 graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Colbert received his master's degree from Harvard University.

Colbert was reared in Claremore and attended Oaks Indian Mission School. He is married to Keven Virgilio and has two sons, Kit, 11, and K.C., 8. Colbert is the son of Willie and Mary Gooden of Okmulgee.

Creek educator earns ''teacher of the year''

SECOND MESA, Ariz. -- Linda Doering, Oneida-Creek, and her husband, Allen Doering, both teachers at Second Mesa, Ariz.,have been named ''outstanding teachers of the year'' by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

''We considered many exemplary teachers from around the nation for this award, but the Doerings' dedication to their students, inspiring teaching style, and commitment to the educational advancement of Indian students in science clearly made Linda and Allen our top choices,'' said Norbet Hill , executive director for AISES.

The Doerings' award from AISES includes a cash gift and an expense paid trip to the AISES Annual National Conference in Albuquerque, N.M.

AISES is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of math and science instruction for American Indian youth and to increasing the number of American Indian scientists and engineers in the nation.

Checotah student lands theater role

Armstrong

CHECOTAH -- Kim Armstrong, a Checotah High School sophomore, has been cast in ''Dark at the Top of the Stairs'' as Flirt. The production will be performed at Muskogee Little Theatre, March 6-8 and 12-14. Armstrong is the daughter of Martha Armstrong of Checotah.

Spring fever hits Creek Indian communities

compiled by **Stephanie Berryhill**
MNN Associate editor

Hanna

-- The Hanna Indian Community is holding a coed volleyball tournament March 21. Teams are limited to an eight-person roster (four men, four women) with a 12 team limit. The $35 entry fee is due March 18. First and second place winners will receive t-shirts. Third place winners will receive a trophy. For more information, call (918) 657-2424.

-- First place winners of the community's mens' basketball tournament were L.A. Bulls, Okmulgee; second place winners were Isiah Jones, Eufaula; and receiving third place was Ricky Britt, Dewar.

-- On April 4, the community will hold a cake walk and food bingo. Activities begin at 6 p.m.

-- The community's youth group is sponsoring an ''Easter Hunt for Cash'' beginning at noon, April 11. The two age groups will consist of five to 12 year-olds and age 13 to adult. Admission for each group, depending on age, is $2.50 and $5. Cash awards for children are: $60, first prize; $40, second prize; and $20, third prize. Prize awards for the second group are: $100, first prize; $50, second prize; and $25, third prize. Following the hunt will be an all-you-can-eat *Este Mvskoke* meal, with a variety of other foods in addition.

The meal is $4 for adults and $2 for children. Dessert and drinks are included.

Dewar

--The winners of the Dewar Indian Community's Sweetheart Couple Contest were Eugene and Estaline Fields. The couple received tulips, candy, and a plaque from the elder's nutrition employees. Placing second was Houston and Eliza Mae Hicks. They were presented with a ''Red Hot Lover Award.'' ''Valentine's Day makes my glasses steam up,'' joked Mrs. Hicks after receiving the award.

Eugene and Estaline Fields

There were around 30 elders in attendance at the dinner, Mrs. Hicks said.

-- The community has distributed Desert Share rations to around 100 families.

Glenpool

-- Glenpool Creek Indian Community had around 600 people attend its social stompdance.

Making a special appearance at the dance was ''Dances with Wolves'' actress Doris Leadercharge, Lakota. Leadercharge was responsible for teaching the movie cast the Lakota language.

Beggs

-- Beggs Indian Community is preparing to hold fundraisers for a scholarship that will be awarded to a Beggs High School Creek senior, said community treasurer Evelyn Parker.

A chicken dinner will be held May 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beggs Indian Community members will be selling tickets for the dinner.

Kellyville

-- An all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner and a stompdance will be held at the Kellyville Indian Community Center April 4.

The dinner will be begin at 1 p.m. It will cost $5 for adults and $2 for children. All stompground members are invited to the dance, said Delbert Dunn, community chair. Those attending should provide their chairs. The dance will last until midnight.

Bristow

-- Bristow Indian Community will be holding an Indian art show May 16 through 17.

Any Indian interested in entering may call Judy Riley, community chair, at (918) 367-5101. The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 16 and noon to 6 p.m., May 17.

Artists may set up their artwork for sale; the setup fee will consist of 10 percent of each artist's profits.

-- The community men recently held a wild onion dinner. Picking, cleaning, and cooking the onions were Tom Watson, Jess Tiger, and Stewart Underwood. The community women were servers to over 100 attending the dinner, Riley said.

''All of the members worked hard and we had fun,'' she said.

-- The community has distributed Desert Share food to over 100 families, Riley said. Churches, ceremonial grounds, and community members who have not received food may contact Riley.

Koweta

-- Koweta Indian Community is holding Mvskoke singing class every Tuesday at 7 p.m. George Doyle, Snake Creek Baptist Church member, is the instructor.

Muskogee

-- The community has provided food for around 60 families with the distribution of Desert Share staples, said Loretta Purdin, community secretary.

Sapulpa

-- Sapulpa Indian Community is offering low impact aerobic exercise classes two days per week.

On Mondays, the classes are held at 3 p.m. Classes begin at 7 p.m., Thursdays.

-- Yuchi classes are held 3 p.m., Sunday and 7 p.m., Tuesday. All classes are taught at the community office, located at 1030 E. Taft, Suite 110 in the Creek Hills Mall.

-- The community is seeking a Mvskoke language teacher. The individual must be a fluent speaker, reader, and writer of the language. For more information, regarding the position, call 227-3234.

Weleetka

-- Weleetka Indian Community will hold a wild onion dinner beginning at 11 a.m., March 21.

The dinner will cost $3.50 for adults and $1.50 for children.

-- The community has distributed Desert Share food to ''several hundred'' families, reports Dorothy Burden, community secretary-treasurer.

Sidney Loggins was selected Wetumka Indian Community Sweetheart. She is the daughter of Johnnie and Bobbie Sue Loggins of Wetumka.

Eufaula

-- The community is holding a coed volleyball tournament March 21 beginning at 9 a.m. The tournament has a seven-person roster limit and only the first 10 teams will play. The $40 entry fee is due March 19. Tee-shirts will be awarded for first and second place winners, and a team trophy for third place. Most valuable male and female players will also be awarded.

Okemah

-- The benefit gospel singing held for Rev. Louis Harjo was a success, reported Inda McGertt, Okemah Indian Community secretary.

The community raised over $600 dollars to go toward expenses incurred from dialysis treatments Rev. Harjo is receiving, McGertt said.

Because a need has been shown for a community emergency fund, the community has begun holding fundraisers, said Rebecca Stroud, community treasurer.

-- Stroud reports she is at home and recovering well from her recent surgery.

Wilson

-- Wilson Indian Community will hold its election of community officers at 7 p.m., April 20, Lucille Bear, community secretary, said.

Oklahoma City

-- Mvskoke language classes have begun at the OCMA center, 711 SW 29, in Oklahoma City. Liza Pena is the instructor. For more information contact (405) 632-5872.

-- Judy and Gilbert Harwell were chosen Valentine's day sweethearts. The couple has been married 53 years.

Judy and Gilbert Harwell

please see **COMMUNITIES**, page 7

Mvskoke Tribal Town Confederacy to have busy month

OKEMAH -- A newly formed youth and elders circle will be discussing issues regarding traditional upbringing and values 10 a.m., April 4.

The group will also address issues challenging youth today, as well as offering support for Indian youth.

The meeting will be held at the Mvskoke Tribal Towns' Center, 118 W. Elm St., Okemah.

An Easter egg hunt will be held following the meeting. Those attending may bring a dozen colored eggs and a covered dish.

All people are invited to attend. For more information, contact Rita Williams at (918) 623-1424 or (918) 652-7500 or Thomas Berryhill at (918) 756-1410.

Confederacy meeting held

The Mvskokullke Etvlwa Etelaketa held its monthly meeting March 14.

Items on the agenda included:

-- Oklahoma House Bill 1979, the legislation requiring Indian smokeshops to tax non-tribal patrons, was discussed by special guest speaker Danny Williams, D-Seminole, state representative for Okfuskee-Seminole counties. Rep. Williams encouraged tribal town members to actively participate in their local school systems and in their local and state governments.

This will enable Indians to educate and sensitize non-Indians regarding Native American mentality and culture, said the Seminole representative;

-- Wilbur ''Chebon'' Gouge, Weogufkee, informed tribal town members of the United Methodists' plans to publish the green corn ceremony in its book of worship.

Confederacy members approved a motion to draft a resolution in opposition to the publication;

-- clarification of the Tribal Town Center, Inc. by-laws were made and discussed by Thomas Berryhill, confederacy floor speaker;

-- At 10 a.m., March 21 a compact for creating a government-to-goverment relationship between the Mvskoke Tribal Town Confederacy and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will be discussed.

Tribal town newsletter forming

For persons interested in tribal towns or in strengthening their own tribal town, the Mvskokulke Etvlwa Etelaketa (Confederated tribal towns of the Mvskoke people, including Seminole and Yuchi towns) will put you on their mailing list to recieve a monthly newsletter with information on tribal towns, said Thomas Berryhill, floor leader of the confederacy.

Please send your name, address, clan and tribal town to Mvskoke Tribal Town Center, 118 W. Elm St., Okemah, OK 74859.

Berryhill said this notice is also to encourage response from those who are intereseted in the reorganization of a tribal town.

In brief

Tribal members named officers to Indian chamber

TULSA -- New American Indian Chamber of Commerce officers and board members have been elected. Cecil Cummings, Cherokee, owner of Feathergraphix, is the new president.

Other officers include Andrew Skeeter, Yuchi-Creek, president-elect; Jack Spradling, vice-president; Carl Boone, treasurer; and Theresa Bradske, secretary. New and continuing board members include Gene Bread, Bill Wright, Gary Davidson and Dannette Russell, Creek.

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce was established to help Indian-owned businesses increase sales, become more involved in the community, and become more influential by becoming a group.

For information on joining the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, call (918) 429-9639.

Events surrounding Sevier killing detailed in new book

LAWRENCE, Kan. -- A book detailing the circumstances surrounding the death of Greg Sevier is now available. Willie Sevier, Greg's father, announced the book is being distributed from Native Creations in Lawrence.

Greg Sevier was shot six times by two Lawrence police officers in the Sevier home following a disturbance in April 1991.

The elder Sevier said the book costs $22. For more information contact Native American Creations at (913) 832-2009 or write Native Creations at 732 Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

(Editor's note: An account of the shooting and subsequent investigation was featured in the August 1991 edition of the MNN.)

Oklahoma Indian legal service relocates offices

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., has moved its offices to the Founder's Tower in Oklahoma City.

The new mailing address is Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., Founder's Tower, 5900 Mosteller Drive., Suite 610, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

The telephone number remains (405) 840-5255.

O.I.L.S. Executive Director Leah Harjo Ware, Creek, said the move provides a quiet working atmosphere in a central location.

O.I.L.S., Inc., is a non-profit legal organization devoted to the legal problems facing Oklahoma's low-income Indian community. This is the tenth year of operation. O.I.L.S. is the only legal organization devoted exclusively to the often unique, legal problems of Indians.

Communities

continued from page 6

Tulsa

-- Tulsa Creek Indian Community will have a concession stand at the Sixth Annual Tulsa Indian Art Festival. The festival will be held April 3 through 5 at the Expo Square Pavilion.

-- The community would like all area Creek youth interested in the its youth council to contact the TCIC office at 832-7062.

-- The community's board of directors will have its meeting at 6:30 p.m., March 16. The meeting will be held at the community center, located at 6363 E. 31st, Suite 105.

Okfuskee

-- The Okfuskee Indian Community will hold its Easter dinner at 1 p.m., April 12. Everyone is invited to attend, said Sharon Hicks, community reporter.

-- The community is offering backhoe services for a nominal fee. Call Annie Hicks, community treasurer, for prices.

-- Community member Louise Burgess is celebrating her birthday this month, reported Sharon Hicks.

Tribal adult education department offers opportunity

OKMULGEE -- The new adult education teacher for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is concerned about literacy.

''It's sad that some people lack the necessary skills to function in society,'' said Cheryl Bear. ''Some people can't perform a simple task or particular job. Often it's taken for granted that everyone knows how to read, write, and speak (English) effectively.

''Wrong. So many people have dropped out of school; (they) lack these important skills.

Bear said the Creek Nation adult education program is set up to help acquire basic skills.

''For six weeks, one may come in and encounter the needed elements to provide a happier, productive life,'' Bear said. ''General instruction in all subjects is available.''

Bear said other resources such as computers, books, and reference material are available.

''Perseverance and a positive attitude are the keys to wholesome new environment,'' Bear said. ''Don't get left in the dark. It's never too late to earn a (General Equivalency Diploma).''

For more information, contact the adult education center at (918) 756-8700, exts. 315 and 395, or visit the center, room 301 in the independent agencies (mound) building at the tribal capitol complex, Okmulgee.

People, places, and events around Creek Nation

Administration seeking job resumes

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is conducting an employee search for qualified and skilled personnel in the categories listed below. If you are interested, have the experience and academic qualifications in any of these areas, submit a current resume to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, personnel office, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

In accordance with the Indian Preference Act, the tribal government of the Creek Nation will give preference in employment to qualified Indians, particularly members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. For Indian preference consideration, please submit Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Closing date for resumes is March 27. Resumes are being sought from people with accounting, business administration, community health, counseling, education administration, economic development, planning, and social work experience.

This announcement is not for specific positions. Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

Creek Princess pageant June 13

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will crown a new princess June 13.

Kristi Herndon of Shawnee is the reigning Creek Nation Princess.

Applications, rules, and other information can be obtained from Pat Morgan at (918) 756-8700, ext. 271, or write the Creek Nation Princess Committee, attention: Pat Morgan, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Application deadline is June 1.

Creek election board begins meeting

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board will hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in the election board office, room 120 at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee. Persons wishing to address the board should submit their name and topic to the election board office one week prior to the scheduled meeting, to be placed on the agenda.

Children, women's service expands

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System, Oklahoma's information and referral service for children with special needs and central directory of resources for Sooner Start Early Intervention Program, is now expanding to include information for women and children with health needs statewide. This expansion is in coordination with the maternal and child health division of the state department of health.

OASIS project director Brenda Motsinger said, ''It's logical and economical for the department to utilize an already existing information and referral service, with a statewide toll-free number, to provide information about health services for women and children. This is designed to help more people access available health services, particularly women of childbearing age, infants, children and adolescents.''

Oklahomans can now call the OASIS toll-free number, 1-800-42-OASIS, to find out about available health services statewide, for women, infants, children, and adolescents, such as family planning, prenatal care, immunizations, and routine health check-ups.

Trained information specialists can assist you in locating such available services, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 1-800-42-OASIS statewide, or 271-6302 in the Oklahoma City area. OASIS is the number to call for information concerning Sooner Start, Oklahoma's early intervention program for developmentally delayed infants, toddlers, and services for children with disabilities through 21 years of age.

Parent committees combine efforts

OKEMAH -- The Indian education parent committees of Okemah and Mason Public Schools held a garage sale and Indian taco sale March 13, at the Okemah Indian Community Center. Proceeds will go to the annual Okfuskee County Native American Senior Banquet in April. To make donations, please call Valeria Littlecreek at 623-0212 during the day and 623-1764 after 6 p.m. or contact Geneva Douglas at 623-1317 after 5 p.m.

Tulsa University site of powwow

TULSA -- University of Tulsa's Native American Student Association's 1992 Spring Pow Wow will be held March 21, at the exchange center on the Tulsa Fairgrounds. Arts and crafts booths are available for $25 or a comparable donation. Space is limited. Reservations are suggested and can be made by contacting Charles Tripp at (918) 631-3215.

Contests: Juniors and tiny tots must register from noon to 3:00 p.m. and participate in both the 3 p.m. parade and the grand entry; seniors must register from noon to 7 p.m. and also be in the grand entry.

Gourd dancing begins at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own chairs. No alcoholic beverages allowed.

OSU-Okmulgee Spring powwow set

OKMULGEE -- Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee's American Indian Student Association, in conjunction with ''The Year of the Indian,'' will present its spring powwow April 4 at Covelle Hall on the OSU campus in Okmulgee.

There will be contests for tiny tots 0-8; junior girls cloth and buckskin 9-16; junior boys straight and traditional combined 9-16; junior boys fancy; ladies cloth and buckskin combined; and men's southern straight, northern traditional, men's fancy, 17 and up. Nearly $2,000 in prize money will be awarded.

The gourd dance begins at 2 p.m. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Grand entry begins at 7 p.m.

Artists are welcome to exhibit their work. Booth space is available for a donation.

Specialty dances to be performed are the hoop dance, stomp dance, and shield dance. Colors will be presented by the Mvskoke Nation Vietnam Era Veterans.

Co-hosts are the Mvskoke Nation Era Vietnam Veterans and Northeastern State University's Native American Student Association, Tahlequah.

For more information, contact Denise Matal at (918) 758-0239 or Al Wilson, AISA sponsor at (918) 756-6211.

Program accepting applications

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Job Training Partnership Act program is accepting applications for assistance for those students enrolled in the summer session at Oklahoma State University Okmulgee, through April 16th.

Monahwee, King exchange March nuptials

OKMULGEE -- Jimmy King and Jo Anna Monahwee, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson King, exchanged marriage vows March 14 at the independent agencies building mound auditorium at the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex in Okmulgee.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Baptist Association hosts successful meet at Tuskegee church

reprinted from
The Indian Baptist Awakener

EUFAULA -- The Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association held their Evangelism Conference at Tuskegee Baptist Church in January.

Keynote speaker was Rev. Eddie Lindsay, catalytic missionary in Oklahoma. Conference leaders were Rev. Bill Barnett, Indian Nations Baptist, Seminole, and Alan Colbert, Director of Missions for the MSW association.

Inspirational music was provided by Spring Baptist Church, Sasakwa, youth and adult choirs with Ugie Streetman and Jane McKane conducting the choirs, respectively.

22 churches participated with Spring Baptist Church, having 44 members register for the conference. They were followed by Tuskegee with 20, and First Indian Baptist, Okmulgee with 10.

Four churches were recognized for their baptisms. Spring Church had 25 baptisms last year. Faith Baptist had 12 and First Indian, Okmulgee and Sand Creek had 10 each.

M-S-W Association sets March-April calendar of events

March 21

- Girls in Action and Acteen rally at Vian, 10 a.m.

- Personal Motivation\Women's Missionary Union Council, 1 p.m.

March 27 through 28

-Pastors and Deacons retreat at MSW Assembly Ground, begins 6 p.m., Friday

April 4

- Associational work day at assembly ground, 10 a.m.

April 11

- Day Camp at assembly ground, 9:30 a.m.

- Associational council at assembly ground, 10 a.m.

April 13

-Sunday School\Evangelism Training at Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church, 7 p.m.

April 18

- Youth Rally at Greenleaf Baptist Church, 10 a.m.

April 24 through 25

- State Associational Leadership Training, Oklahoma City, registration April 24.

April 27

- Vacation Bible School Clinic at Tuskegee, 7 p.m.

Mvskoke churches begin spring revivals

First Indian Baptist Church

OKMULGEE -- First Indian Baptist Church, Okmulgee, is hosting its spring revival March 23-28 with Rev. Alan Colbert preaching.

Music leader will be Wayne and Lucille Harjo. Rev. John Buckner is the pastor.

Colbert is the Director of Missions for the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association. Colbert has been the associational missionary since October.

Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. The church is located at 320 N. Mission (west of Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee), in Okmulgee. Nursery and transportation provided. For more information contact the church at 756-9495.

Glorieta Baptist Church

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City will be in revival April 19-24.

The evangelist will be Josh Harjo. Weekday services begin at 7 p.m. nightly. Sunday services are scheduled for 9:55 a.m. and 6 p.m. Glorietta Baptist Church is located at 200 S.E. 70th and Shields Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

Central Baptist Church

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Central Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, is having its spring revival April 6-10. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m.

Rev. Leon Postoak is the pastor of Central Baptist.

Rev. Amon Harjo is the evangelist. Harjo is the pastor of First Caddo Baptist Church, Ft. Cobb. Music director is Felix Tiger. Tiger is pastor of High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah.

A nursery will be provided and everyone is welcome to attend, said Postoak. Central Baptist is located at 824 N.W. Ninth Street in Oklahoma City.

Creek grounds, churches, and community wild onion dinners

WELEETKA -- The Weleetka Indian Community is hosting a wild onion dinner March 21 at its community center, 609 S. Chickasaw. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for the all-you-can-eat meal is $3.50 for adults and $1.50 for children.

EUFAULA -- The Eufaula Indian Community's elders are having a wild onion dinner March 21 at the Eufaula Senior Citizens Center, First and High streets, downtown Eufaula. In addition to the wild onions, the menu will include a variety of traditional Creek foods. Cost for the all-you-can-eat meal is $5 for adults and $2 for children 12 and under.

TWIN HILLS -- The Concharty United Methodist Church is having its wild onion dinner March 28 at the church. Lunch will be served from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Cost for the meal is $5 and $2.50 for children. The church is located four miles north of state highway 16 and then one-half mile east.

DUCK CREEK -- Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground is holding a wild onion dinner April 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The dinner will be held at the Liberty Mounds Public Schools Cafeteria.

KELLYVILLE --An all-you-can-eat wild onion dinner and stompdance will be April 4 at the Kellyville Indian Community Center, beginning at 1 p.m. Cost is $5 for adults and $2 for children. The community center is located west of Sapulpa on U.S. Highway 66.

ARBEKA -- Arbeka Ceremonial Ground will have its regular food bingo March 21 at 7 p.m. Ground members may bring food items. A food sale begins at 5:30 p.m. Both activities will be held in the ground's community center.

YEAGER -- Members of the Salt Creek United Methodist Church express their thanks for the support given at the church's recent wild onion benefit dinner.

Church Briefs

High Springs Baptist seeking donations

OKEMAH -- High Springs Baptist Church is accepting donations and pledges for its fund to build a new fellowship hall. The church's goal is to raise $5000, Tom Wind, building fund committee secretary, said. *Send donations and pledges to High* Springs Baptist Church, P.O. Box 124, Cromwell,OK 74837.

NE District Methodists hold seminar

PRESTON -- The Northeast District United Methodist Women of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference are holding a mini-seminar March 20 through 22 at the northeast district center in Preston. Registration for, ''Reflections of Mirrors of the Spirit,'' is $20, which includes meals. For more information, contact Josephine Deere, district president, at (918) 486-5968.

Snake Creek plans gospel singing

LIBERTY -- Snake Creek Baptist Church is hosting a gospel singing, June 27, beginning at 7:30 p.m. From the north or south, exit east off U.S. Highway 75 at the Beeline Grocery Store on 221 St. Continue east for 7.5 miles to dead-end, turn north and follow to church. From Bixby, go south on Memorial to 201st St., turn left and go east one mile, turn right and go one and one-half mile to church turn off. From state highway 16, turn north on Bixby Road, (also called Memorial Road) and go north seven miles. Turn right on gravel road and follow signs to church.

Smith family reunion at Middle Creek

DUSTIN -- The Smith Family Reunion will be May 23 at the Middle Creek Baptist Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bring a covered dish. Alot of games and door prizes are available. Middle Creek Baptist Church is located approximately five miles south of Dustin.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Obituaries

JAMES BERRYHILL

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for James ''Jim'' E. Berryhill were held Dec. 23 at the Hahn Cook\Street and Draper Chapel in Oklahoma City. Berryhill, 68, died Dec. 20 in Oklahoma City. He was born Sept. 4, 1923 in Coweta. He married Juanita Butler Nov. 6, 1942.

A Mason and a World War I veteran, Berryhill was a retired Otasco store manager where he was employed for 35 years. He was also a member of the Paden Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita, of the home; one daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and W.B. Smith; a granddaughter, Rebecca Sue Smith; a grandson, James Ben Smith; three sisters, Ruth Rush of Paden, Frances Hill, and Betty Ingram of Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; a brother, Charles B. Berryhill of Lompoc, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

Interment was in Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

DONALD BUSTER GEORGE

SAPULPA -- Graveside services for Donald Buster George of Glenpool, were held Feb. 12 at the Green Hills Memorial Gardens with Melvin George officiating.

George died Feb. 9 at Bartlett Memorial Hospital, Sapulpa.

A memorial service was held at Calvary Baptist Church, Glenpool, Feb. 10. Prayer service was held Feb. 11 at Smith Funeral Chapel.

George was born Aug. 20, 1951 at Claremore Indian Hospital, and was a resident of Sapulpa and Glenpool. He was a 1971 graduate of Jordan High School, Columbus, Ga. He was employed by Liberty Glass and was a member of Polecat Ceremonial Ground, the Native American Church, and Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include wife, Dorothy, of the home; son, Christopher, of the home; mother, Addie Rolland George of Sapulpa; sisters, Alma Jean Gibson, Christine Wright, and Valerie Harjo, all of Sapulpa, and Ramona Sweeney of Tahlequah; brothers, Ruben George of Albuquerque, N.M., Willie, Melvin, John, Ronald, and Gary George, all of Sapulpa.

HENRY FRANK

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Henry Frank, 91, were held Dec. 5, 1991 at the Arbeka Methodist Church with Revs. Walter McGirt and Robert Baker officiating. Frank died Dec. 2, 1991 at the Creek Nation Community Hospital.

He was born March 1900 in Indian Territory. He was the son of Tingo and Amanda Jones Frank. He was a retired carpenter, and had lived in Okfuskee County most of his life. He was a member of Arbeka Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Ella Geboe; two brothers, William Frank and Joe Frank; and one son, Henry Frank Jr.

He is survived by one son, Norman Frank of San Diego, Calif.; two brothers, John L. Frank and Cornelius Frank, both of Okemah; one sister, Lucille LeClaire of Bristow; and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Internment was in the Arbeka Cemetery.

TONY BRUNER

HOLDENVILLE -- Funeral services for Tony Bruner, 82, of Holdenville, were held Feb. 11 at the Cedar River Baptist Church with the Revs. Andrew Deere and Edward Bear officiating.

Bruner died Feb. 8 at the Holdenville Nursing Home.

Bruner was born July 29, 1909 in Holdenville, to Dave and Ida Kernell Bruner. He worked various jobs, including five years with the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Circus.

He married Lussie Bullett in 1945. He lived in the Holdenville area since 1976, and was a member of the Cedar River Baptist Church. His wife preceded him in death October 1991.

Survivors include one brother, George Bruner of Holdenville; three sisters, Loucinda Walkingstick of Tulsa, Mattie Factor of Sasakwa, and Alice Stevens of Tulsa; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Burial was in the Cedar River Cemetery.

> **28. Momen nanvke omvlkvt, mv Hesaketvmese vnokecake, eme nak komat vevkvye enhuehkvkvte en herakvre tohkvlket em vtokaket omat, kerres.**
>
> **29. Mv homv kerrvtet, E'ppuce vhake vhayvkvren homvn mellvtet omekv, tecakkvte sulke vpvke emette enhvteceskv hakvren.**
>
> **- Lomvlke 8:28-29**

ROLEY JAMES HARJO

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Roley James Harjo, 48, were held Feb. 4 at Bowen Baptist Church.

Harjo died Feb. 1. He was born Aug. 15, 1943 in Okemah.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Rev. D.D. and Marie Harjo, and a brother, Cornell Harjo. He was affectionately known by his family as ''Chebon.'' He was employed with the Army Corp of Engineers, Tulsa.

Harjo served as a deacon at Bowen Baptist Church. He was ordained by Rev. Ira Pisachubbe.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; daughter, Trisha and son, Matthew, all of the home; brothers, Wayne and Steven Harjo, both of Tulsa, and Wilson Harjo of California; sisters, Irene Tiger of Owasso, Carol Powell, and Hulda Harjo, both of Tulsa, and Ora Day of California.

Interment was in the Greenleaf Baptist Church Cemetery in Okemah.

LEO REASY HARJO

FRESNO, Calif. -- Funeral services for Leo Reasy Harjo, 50, were held Jan. 25 at Page Funeral Home Chapel, Selma, Calif.

Harjo, a Fresno resident, was born in 1941 in Okmulgee. He is survived by his wife, Helen of Reedley, Calif.; two daughters, Patricia Barnett of Kansas City, Mo. and Jennifer Harjo of Selma; three grandsons; his parents, Ray and Leona Harjo of Selma; two sisters, Linda Harjo of Los Angeles and Brenda Harjo of Selma; two brothers, Charles Smith and Ben Harjo, both of Selma; and by a host of relatives including aunts, uncles, and cousins in Okmulgee and several Oklahoma towns.

EVELYN DINGMAN

SAPULPA -- Funeral services for Evelyn E. Dingman were held Feb. 14 at Little Cussetah Baptist Church with the Revs. Willis Knight and Jonas Partridge officiating. Burial was in the Cussetah Cemetery. Casketbearers were Donnie Bevenue, Paul Bevenue, Howard Baker Jr., Buddy Tartsah, Billy Jack Bevenue, and Carl Lynn Bevenue.

JORENE YAHOLA

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for Jorene Yahola, 58, of rural Holdenville, were held Feb. 11 at the family's home. Yahola died Feb. 7 at the Presbyterian Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Yahola was born July 5, 1934 to Barney and Ruth Yahola in Holdenville. She lived in Holdenville all of her life, and was a member of Salt Creek Methodist Church.

Survivors include her mother, Ruth Yahola of the home; three brothers, Roman Yahola, Houston Yahola, and Wiley King; one sister, Irene Fife; and several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in the Yahola Family Cemetery.

ROSA IRENE WHEELER

HOLDENVILLE -- Funderal services for Rosa Irene Wheeler, 75, of Wewoka, were held Jan. 6 at the Stout Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. George Jesse officiating.

Wheeler died Jan. 2 at the Holdenville General Hospital. She was born March 13, 1916 to Conley and Rosa LaValley. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Wheeler in December 1989.

Survivors include two sisters, Ula Harris of Yantix, Tex. and Mary Gertrude Rippy of Wewoka; and one brother, Clyde LaValley of Wetumka. Burial was in the Oakwood Cemetery.

MANDY NOBLE TIGER

BROKEN ARROW – Funeral services for Mandy Noble Tiger, 98, of Coweta, were held Feb. 4 at the Coweta Assembly of God.

Nobel was born June 10, 1893 in Wagoner County, Indian Territory. She died Feb. 1 in Broken Arrow. Survivors include four sons, Alfred Noble Jr., and Charles Noble, both of Broken Arrow, Harry Noble of Claremore, and Elmer Noble of Tulsa; 20 grandchildren; 46 great grandchildren; and 15 great-great grandchildren. Interment was in the Shahan Cemetery.

Book

continued from page 1

ceremonial service. The ceremony is based on his tribal green corn.

"It is very loosely based on that. It is not the green corn, but it is drawn from that," said Shaw, a participant of his traditional tribal green corn ceremony. "The service is not the green corn ceremony, but it does draw its insight from the green corn ceremony."

"It gets tricky; it's distinctively different from (the Shawnee United Remnant Band) tradition. It's Fred's own distinctive appropriation of that service," Andy Langford, the book's chief editor, said.

Shaw said he attended a United Methodist in Fellowship, Worship, Music and other Arts roundtable discussion. Its objective was determining the spiritual bridges between Christianity, traditional insight and spiritual tradition. This was where he was first requested to write the service.

Tribal leader calls service blasphemy

Thomas Berryhill Jr., Mvskokullke Etvlwa Etelaketa (Creek Tribal Town Confederacy) Floor Speaker, said Shaw has no right to authorize the use of the green corn ceremony. He believes it is blasphemous.

"Actually what they're doing is making a mockery of our religion. We're all appalled at what the church is attempting to do to it."

He contends the church wouldn't attempt to change Islamic or Jewish ritual, and questions the United Methodists attempt to Christianize Mvskoke religion. It would be like traditional people taking their communion and saying, "'lets drink pop instead of grape juice,'" Berryhill said.

Langford said his staff has rewritten Jewish and Catholic prayers with the blessings of Jewish and Roman Catholic people.

In Shaw's service, there is dialogue between a liturgist, eight celebrants, and gathered people which enter the service on an animal skin and blanket path.

The liturgist is symbolic of Native American people. Shaw said it also expresses "what is going through my heart when I'm going through (my tribal green corn) ceremony."

The eight celebrants represent Native American people. They express Native American attitudes toward life. The gathered people represent the church. They "express what the church says about what has been stated by the celebrants," Shaw said.

Ceremony utilizes many symbols

The service is full of physical objects which are symbolic of life, death, and belonging. In the ceremony, a burning candle is set upon a table to represent the central fire. An ear of corn and maple syrup are symbolic of the gift and sweetness of life. Green paint may be used by the liturgist to mark symbols on the foreheads of participants. Shaw said the symbol would probably be a cross that would symbolize belonging. Wood ashes are sprinkled on the celebrants to "represent all that is old and gone in life."

In his tribal green corn ceremony, ashes represent the story which says its ancestors originated from ashes. The liturgist uses an artificial feather to brush away the ashes.

Kenneth Deere, associate general secretary of the general commission on religion and race of the United Methodist Church, opposes the service's publication, although he believes the Methodist church is not to blame. The church is trying to educate and sensitize members that there are several races and different ceremonies within the church, said Deere of Washington, D.C.

"This is a ceremony the Native American Methodists thought should be practiced to help non-Native Americans understand spirituality," Langford, said.

Instead of trying to recreate the ceremony, church members should experience the ritual first-hand, said Berryhill, a member of Arbeka Ceremonial Ground.

"If they want to take part in the green corn ceremony, let them come to the (ceremonial) grounds."

Berryhill, also a Muscogee (Creek) National Council Okmulgee District Representative, said the confederacy, as well as National Council, plan to draw up resolutions against its publication.

"The Mvskoke people have sheltered the green corn (ceremony) more than anybody and it's still strong among us. We've still got 14 (ceremonial) grounds that practice it -- and faithfully."

Those opposed to the publication of the ceremony in the book of worship, may write OIMC Delegates at:

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
Tom Roughface, clergy delegate
3020 S. Harvey
Oklahoma City, OK 73109

Pearl Thomas, lay delegate
1112 W. 6th
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Revision to ease fear says author

Shaw believes some feelings, such as Berryhill's, will be quelled once the final version of the ceremony is read.

"There's fear in some circles of having revealed too much and fear of having revealed not enough. I think seeing it will erase these fears," Shaw said.

Although the majority of sources interviewed for this story have not seen the revised draft. Hoyt Hickman, book of worship staff member, denied The Muscogee Nation News access to the final draft. Hickman said the committee's lawyer has advised that further distribution would affect its copyright. Shaw said he cannot distribute the final version of the service because he is bound by its copyright.

Shaw believes that historically, the church's stance toward native people has alienated them. He maintains, "I had tired of hearing my traditional brothers and sisters referred to as pagans."

Langford said he conducted a survey among Native American Methodists to find out the general consensus of their feelings toward the publication. The majority of Indians thought it was a good service and feel it should be included, he said.

"We had some very strong, articulate Native Americans that said 'please don't include this service.' We also had some strong ones that said 'please do.' We were caught between these two forces."

The majority of Native American support in favor of its publication swayed the board to continue with its inclusion. Native Americans consist of 17,000 of the 8.9 million church membership.

The ceremony will consist of five pages of the 560 page book of worship. The book, was published in 1934 and revised in 1964. This edition is expected to be be utilized by the United Methodists 37,000 churches into the next century.

Shaw's traditional and Christian tribal members are happy about the ceremony's inclusion, he said.

"Everybody has been very pleased with it so far -- in our area at least. I think that has to do with trust," said Shaw because he is a familiar face at his tribe's traditional green corn ceremony.

"(The Indian reference) is an adaptation of a green corn service with specific references which would not be true of a traditional service," Langford said.

Methodists decide at general conference

The United Methodist General Conference, held every four years, will make the final decision on content, said Langford. The conference will be held May 4 through 15 in Louisville, Ky.

Betty Admussen, Native American Caucus of the United Methodist Church, is one 998 delegates that will vote on the church's legislation in Louisville.

"I've seen the material, and it's something I don't think is Native American as far as I'm concerned."

Shaw, Langford, and Rev. Sam Wynn, Native American Caucus Executive Director, have all said the ceremony's final draft is not in the same form as it was originally presented to the caucus. A major concern is Native Americans in opposition have not based their opinions on the final draft.

Caucus not consulted for input

The caucus, which serves as an advocate for Native American Methodist church members, was never consulted for input by the book of worship committee, Admussen said. Caucus members were made aware of the service through an article written in the caucus newsletter, "Echo of the Four Winds." Newsletter editor Melva Abrahms said her daughter Cynthia, a book of worship committee member, has not even seen the final version of the service.

"I'm not in support of them using traditional, spiritual forms that conflict with the wishes of traditional people," said Melva Abrahms, of Norwalk, Calif.

Indians say ceremony inappropriate

A member of the United Methodist Church for 40 years, Admussen wrote Langford expressing her disapproval. "It's something that belongs to the Native American people; leave it alone. You can't put that meaning and everything into a one hour service."

The Kansas City, Mo. resident is one of eight Native American delegates going to the general conference. She will vote against its inclusion. "I just object to the whole thing."

As a child, Admussen, an Eastern Shawnee tribal member from Quapaw, participated in the green corn ceremony with Seneca-Cayuga Indians. "It's nothing at all like the green corn ceremonies we have," she said.

Deere contends it is inappropriate and has not been sanctified by tribal elders and tribal people.

"That's just not appropriate. You can't take bits and parts of a ceremony whether it's the green corn dance or a Sioux pipe ceremony."

Deere and Langford agree that book of worship committee member Lois Neal, is largely reponsible for the solicitation of Shaw's tribal green corn ceremony.

"Lois was very firm. She felt it was a faithful and good service and ought to be included in the book," Langford said.

Neal, Cherokee, contends the book of worship ceremony has nothing to do with the Mvskoke people or the sacredness of the green corn ceremony. It does not specify it is a green corn ceremony, said Neal, pastor of Angie Smith United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City.

After Shaw rewrote the the ceremony several times, it was no longer representative of the traditional green corn ceremony it was based upon, Langford said. It is simply an interpretation of a Shawnee tribal green corn ceremony, Neal said. She likened it to a printed prayer and believes Shaw did a beautiful job of sharing his tribal

please see **BOOK**, page 12

Debate

continued from page 1

state tax commission states that we have a right to do what this bill says,'' Isaac told the House.

The state tax commission estimates the state could realize $10.1 million in additional cigarette and sales tax revenue.

Responding to a question by Rep. Danny Williams, D-Seminole, Isaac said he did not consult Indian tribes before writing HB 1979.

''What is there to negotiate?'' Isaac asked.

Rep. Walt Roberts, D-McAlester, questioned Issac as to how much monies tribes would be losing to taxation.

''There's no way of knowing that,'' Isaac said.

He asked Isaac if he was aware of the devastating effect the loss of money will have on tribal social programs.

''What will the state have to spend if Indians have to leave inadequate tribal services in order to replace the social programs you are going to destroy by placement of this law?,'' asked Roberts.

''What if the Creek tribe says 'the heck with you, we're not going to do it.' Could they buy from wholesalers out of state and sell with stamps not affixed?,'' questioned Rep. M.C Liest, D-Morris.

''Yes, but they would be in jeopardy of breaking state law,'' Issac replied.

Isaac assured representatives the bill would not give the state tax commission authority to enter upon restricted Indian land. Opposing representatives however, repeatedly referred to tribal sovereignty as defense against Isaac's bill.

Rep. Bart Bates, D-Boswell questioned the state's ability to enforce such a law without going on Indian land.

''Is (Isaac) going to stand by the gate and look into everyone's pocket to see if he has a card in his pocket?''

Isaac told representatives Indian smokeshops would have to comply with proposed legislation, or otherwise be in violation of the law.

The state gives tax breaks to the oil industry, farmers, and other industries and is considering a tax break on parimutuel racing, Rep. Kevin Cox, D-Oklahoma City, said.

''Why can't we give the Indian a tax break.'' questioned Cox.

Rep. Bill Settle, D-Muskogee, an enrolled Creek tribal member, said, ''we do not treat other sovereign nations in this manner.

''This has happened too often in the past.''

Isaac chided Settle for voting, saying Settle's tribal membership is a conflict of interest.

''If every lawmaker with Indian blood was asked not to vote, we probably would not have a quorum,'' responded Settle, eliciting laughter from the gallery of over 300 Indians.

''We've had enough government intervention and you can ask any Native American in this state -- they don't want anymore. Think about the dangerous precedent you're setting by involving the state in independent sovereign nations,'' Roberts said.

Isaac believes these taxes are owed to the people of the state of Oklahoma and said when a lack of state funds causes elders to be kicked out of nursing homes and children to be denied nutritional programs, ''tell them the lack of money is due to Indian sovereignty.''

Isaac vocalized fears of Indian sovereignty enabling Native Americans to overtake the state.

Pointing to the gallery of Indian spectators and protestors, Isaac said, ''You can look at them right here, because they're the ones you're going to be answering to because they're going to buy everything in the state of Oklahoma and not pay any tax for it, and you'll be serving them instead of the people of Oklahoma.''

War

continued from page 1

ruling in last year's Potawatomi case. The court ruled that tribes should collect state taxes on sales to non-tribal members, but noted that the state had no mechanism or legal means to force tribes to assess and collect that tax.

Fife said the Supreme Court did not direct Oklahoma to enter Indian country to enforce state laws.

"In fact, the Court was clear that the state had no power to enter Indian Country as it has no jurisdiction there under federal law nor has it acquired jurisdiction under Public Law 280, for which tribal consent is required," Fife said.

The chief noted that smokeshops provide jobs and revenue to the tribe, local communities, and individuals.

"These tobacco shops are bringing jobs to areas where Indian unemployment averages 25 percent and ranges up to 43 percent," Fife said. "The last time the U.S. saw 25 percent unemployment, it was called the great depression.

"The state of Oklahoma has done nothing to change these economic conditions or to ameliorate the discrimination affected against our people."

Fife said the tribe has had an economic impact of $240 million dollars to the state economy.

Fife said he would continue to work with the National Council and other tribes to maintain lobby efforts against the bill.

Council

continued from page 3

Council;

-- authorized the creation of a partnership between the tribe, the University of Oklahoma, the state health department and Indian Health Service to pursue funding from the Kellogg Foundation. The foundation provides funding for public health and community development;

-- appropriated $25,000 of unappropriated bingo revenues for additional school funding. No date has been set for the implementation of the clothing assistance;

-- appropriated $25,000 for emergency home improvement needs. The home improvement program (HIP), has a waiting list for services, but no funds;

-- accepted a waiver in the lease between the tribe and Okfuskee County. Indian Health Service will place a new x-ray machine at the Creek Nation Community Hospital. The waiver allows the federal government to retain title to the machine;

-- appropriated $10,000 for the senior citizens emergency assistance act. The money is to be used for emergency home improvements owned by senior citizens; and

-- authorized the contracting of the Johnson O'Malley Indian education funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, beginning in 1993. The tribe would administer the program through its human development division.

Jackson

continued from page 1

Board chair Ken Childers said several excellent candidates for the position were considered, but Jackson exceeded the requirements for the job.

''He's a good man,'' Childers said. ''There were several good applicants, but the board's decision was unanimous.''

A retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant, Jackson had been owner of JJ Construction, a construction business. He is a member of Arbeka tribal town, bird clan, and speaks Mvskoke fluently.

Jackson has an associate degree in business administration from Bacone College and has more than 100 hours toward a degree in business administration. He and his wife, Flora, have five daughters.

Holdenville

continued from page 3

On Jan. 3, he ordered community keys and records be turned over to Clay Pettis, the defendents' attorney.

In lieu of quitting his job as smokeshop manager, Lowe resigned from the community chair position on Feb. 1. As vice-chair, Buck assumed Lowe's former position. Franks, the community's bookkeeper, is also expected to submit her resignation of office by mid-March, he said.

The two community factions need to request a hearing date to determine which community by-laws will be abided by. Officer vacancies will be voted upon after its oy-laws are established, said Buck.

The community smokeshop reopened Feb. 15. The bingo hall opening is tenatively scheduled for late March, Buck said.

Book

continued from page 11

green corn ceremony.

Some caucus committee members told her ''she should have consulted with the people the green corn (ceremony) belongs to,'' Deere said.

Neal said she respects the opinions of traditional people and that the committee will not violate the traditional ways of Indian people.

''It was difficult to know what to protect and what to share,'' Shaw said. ''Quite frankly, if there remains concern by traditional elders, I would not be offended in this not being in the book of worship.''

Langford said the service has been renamed to ''A Native American Service of Thanksgiving.'' He believes the title is more accurate and timely, as it is intended to be practiced during Thanksgiving services.

''There are a great variety of green corn ceremonies in existance. We are not claiming this reflects accurately all of these services,'' Langford said.

Deere plans to attend the general conference. ''I'll be there lobbying against it.''

Becky Thompson, Native American Caucus Chair and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Director, said the inclusion of the ceremony is premature.

''It's good to want to be inclusive, but I think there hasn't been enough dialogue about it,'' said Thompson, an Oklahoma City Creek.

Pearl Thomas, Okmulgee, is an OIMC delegate to the general conference. Thomas, Creek, said she will have to examine the final draft before determining which way she will vote.

Rev. Wynn, a Lumbee of Fayetteville, N.C., said the caucus' consenus is the book of worship is not an appropriate place for the ceremony. Wynn, also a caucas delegate to the conference, said, ''we have taken a stand and I will have to honor that stand.''

''Whatever the outcome, I hope that it will not bring division within the Native American community.''

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 3
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
April 1992, 16 Pages

100 Days

Principal Chief Bill Fife discusses his first 100 days in office

stories by Jim Wolfe,
MNN Editor

One hundred days into the first term of Principal Chief Bill Fife and still the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is plagued with problems of unemployment, budget, political strife, turf wars, inadequate health, and tobacco taxation.

But the chief says he will maintain his plan of direction and will continue to work to fulfill his campaign promises.

''It feels like things are going very slow and that things aren't developing as rapidly as people expect,'' Fife said.

''But, we've made a lot of progress and a lot of necessary changes.''

The chief admits there have been some things missed, but he insists the changes are being made.

Principal Chief Bill Fife

photo by Gerald Wofford

''Some of the other agencies, like the health system, need more work,'' Fife said. ''It hasn't come along like I expected them to. They have been working under an acting hospital administrator and they haven't got off track to provide quality services for the people.''

Fife said he is pleased with the progress his administration has made in establishing a working relationship with the National Council, though he would like to see more participation from the

please see **DAYS**, page 15

Fife remains confident; committed to his agenda

Bill Fife says his first one hundred days as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been, for the most part, exciting.

Admittedly, the chief says there have been some problems as he expected and some surprises.

''You inherit some responsibilities that are related to the office,'' Fife said. ''I expected some of it and there are some things I can't get around.''

The most significant demand of the chief's time has been the public.

''The biggest time consuming factor is meeting with the public,'' Fife said. ''I've been meeting with indi-

please see **AGENDA**, page 15

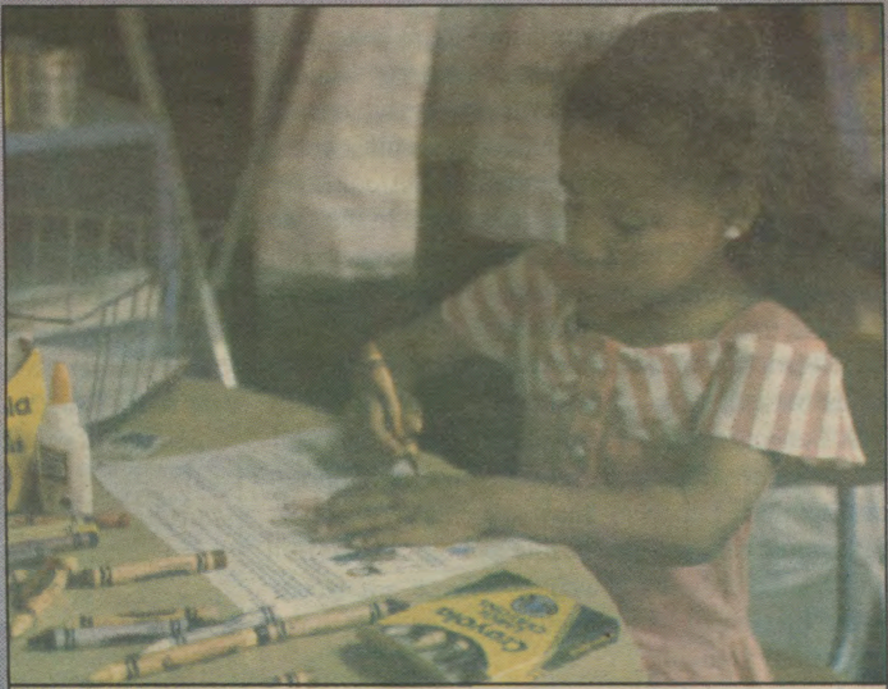
Multicultural crayons eliminate racial stereotypes

story and photo by
Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Over the past few years, advertising industry trends seem to have gradually grown toward the depiction of different races and cultures.

Bennetton clothing is probably most well known for their race conscious ads. They portray colorfully dressed caucasions, hispanics, Asians, and blacks, hand in hand. Now, even crayons have become culturally

please see **CRAYONS**, page 14



Jennifer McNac, 5, uses a multicultural crayon during her coloring period at the Creek Nation Okmulgee Head Start.

Late tribal citizen championed marker, historical preservation

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Driven from their ancestral homelands to settle in the harsh, unfamiliar wilderness of Indian Territory, Mvskoke leaders Opothle Yoholo, Menawee, Timpoochy Barnard, Coosa Tustunnuggee, and Yoholo Micco (sic), probably hoped they had signed their last broken treaty.

These Mvskoke forefathers were among 13 leaders that signed the Treaty of 1826, providing for the Creek Confederacy's removal to the West.

please see **MARKER**, page 16

Letters to the editor

Glenpool reader says thanks

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making the Glenpool Indian Community stomp dance, on Feb. 22, a success.

A special thanks goes to the estimated 600 people that attended. I wish to recognize and thank the Creek and Yuchi ceremonial squaregrounds that participated in the dance. The community was also honored to have Chief Bill Fife and Second Chief Shelly Crow, along with Doris Leadercharge from the movie ''Dances with Wolves,'' in attendance.

A sincere note of appreciation goes to those volunteers that prepared food and donated their time before and during the dance. I am extremely grateful for everyone's efforts in helping to make this dance enjoyable for all.

James Proctor, Glenpool

The Muscogee Nation News
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-8700, (918) 758-0824

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sundays, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturdays, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 a.m.

Glenpool officer thanks Councilman

Editor:

On behalf of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community Board of Directors, I would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Jerry Wilson, Second Speaker, Muscogee National Council, for enlightening us on business management, finances, taxes, and marketing during our January board meeting.

We realize Mr. Wilson has a very busy schedule and we would like to inform our Muscogee brothers and sisters of the special time he has contributed to our community.

Cheri Haney, Secretary GCIC, Glenpool

Health representative appreciated

Editor:

On behalf of the parents and community of Coweta, we would like to commend your community health representative working with the Koweta Indian Community for scheduling the most recent eye screening and glaucoma testing. Not only scheduling but transporting those needing rides. Plus getting quality professionals from Dr. Dukes' office at Catoosa to come to the Coweta Community Center. This made it convenient for the elderly and school age students to be tested.

We find Ms. Debbie Yeahquo to be caring and professional in her duties as CHR and is active in the Coweta community. Again, her efforts have been highly commendable and a sincere thanks for her efforts.

Daniel L. Tah, Coweta
Coweta Indian Education Committee member

Kansas reader seeks election change

Editor:

I would like to thank Helen Duncan who expressed so well, the thoughts that my temper kept me from expressing in a more calm and orderly fashion. Unfortunately, no other absentee voters voiced an opinion on the matter. The election laws must be altered to create a fair and reasonable solution, other than throwing out the votes of absentees. In the case of ballot abnormalities, a new vote by absentees with close supervision and possibly an outside accounting firm help to insure total security.

Yes, it would be expensive and delay election results but, all Muscogee citizens would be heard from. I encourage other absentees to write Chief Bill Fife and The Muscogee Nation News and express your opinion. Let them know our votes do count. ''[P]romote fair and reasonable policies that affect you and the tribe as a whole.'' These are words spoken by Chief Fife at his inauguration, lets make him live up to them.

Lastly, I would like to address the bickering that has plagued Muscogee Nation politics for several years now. If we are to progress it must stop. Currently individual egos get in the way of good government. Case in point, Ken Childers letter in MNN January edition. I do not know the details of the problems between Mr. Childers and Chiquita Smith, but I do know he wanted her removed and she was. That should have ended there, but Mr. Childers chose to add insult by his remarks in MNN. Such childish behavior is an embarrassment to the nation and the perfect example of the bullying tactics of someone who must belittle and try to destroy the self esteem of another to feel better about himself. As a leader among the Creek people, lets hope he does not plan to lead by example.

Jesse A. Jones Jr., Coffeyville, Kan.

Reader suggests other history

Editor:

No wonder Claude Cox was upset by the absentee ballots in the Creek election. Absentee ballots kept him in office or he would have been out long before. John Davis, a Creek fullblood from Okemah, was elected Chief forty years ago. The Bureau of Indian Affairs from Muskogee took several hours after dark to count the ballots in the Creek Council House in Okmulgee for that election. I was in town that night. If they dig a little deeper in the records, they will probably find that another Creek fullblood was elected Chief too. The lawyers agree. If justice department starts growling, feathers will really begin to fly.

My home is Broken Arrow, Holdenville, Muskogee, or Wewoka; anywhere my grandchildren let me hang my hat and take off my boots.

Ucule Harjo, Broken Arrow

Californian seeks probate advice

Editor:

I hope you can help in this matter. My mother passed away a few years ago (Lena Starr Ryal, roll number 448). After, we had alot of trouble with probate with cost and time, with which the Bureau of Indian Affairs was of no use. Now my brother, James Lewis Ryal, has passed away and it's the same thing. He died May 30, 1986 and his family is still waiting. Why is it that everything takes so long and cost so much? Does the BIA help at all or tell you anything? When does the land become taxable? It is now restricted. Do we have to keep paying attorneys until everything is gone? We want to sell all land except mineral rights. We have a buyer but he can't wait forever. Can you help or not?

Elliott Ryal, Norwalk, Calif.

Editor's note: The tribal realty office responded to your letter Feb. 21. That office reports you have not responded to requests for more information

Corrections

Joe Jackson, the executive director of the Creek Nation Housing Authority, is of the Wind Clan and not the Bird Clan, as reported in the March edition of The Muscogee Nation News.

Also, Kevin Robinson and Rachel Young were named students of the month by the Coweta Indian Education Program and not by Coweta High School as reported. The pair are seniors at Coweta High School.

Council approves $800,000 budget supplement

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved an $800,000 supplement to the tribe's comprehensive budget at its March session.

The 31-member tribal legislature consented to an $827,155 increase in the operating budgets of the principal chief, the controller, social services, higher education, and real property and facilities. Corrections to the Fiscal Year 1992 budget totalled $250,000.

Muskogee District Representative Harley Little said he understands the need for more funds, but urged fiscal restraint.

''We ought to hold off for the first year,'' Little told the Council. ''We've got to balance the budget. We keep adding money to it.''

Principal Chief Bill Fife told the Council that the budget problems were not created by his office and that he was aware of every item in the comprehensive budget. He also dismissed suggestions that government operations were out of control.

''Some of the items we didn't budget enough for because we didn't know the need,'' Fife told the Council. ''(But) we're going to be efficient in our operations.''

Fife said an increase in his operating budget is needed to computerize the executive office and to increase his travel budget.

The social services department projected that funds for burial assistance, emergency medical and emergency hardship funds will be depleted during the next three months.

The higher education department has obligated available funds and still has students that have not been funded.

The real property and facilities budget was nearly depleted before Fife assumed the office of principal chief.

Most significant however, was the discovery that the comprehensive budget was not in compliance with approved congressional plans for Docket 275 and the Three Year Plan.

please see **COUNCIL**, page 14

Council moves Muskogee bingo closer to reality

OKMULGEE -- Construction of the oft-discussed Muskogee bingo hall should begin sometime this spring.

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council authorized negotiations for financing and construction of the Muskogee bingo hall at its March session, then awarded the contracts for construction and financing at an April 14 special session.

The Creek Nation Development and Construction Company submitted a low bid of $1.09 million. Financing will be through Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Muskogee.

The Creek Nation construction company submitted a bid April 13. The company is tribally-owned and has existed since 1974.

Muskogee District Representative Harley Little told the Council he was grateful for the approval.

''We've been trying to get this bingo hall in Muskogee for three years,'' Little told the Council.

The Muskogee bingo hall has been plagued with problems, political and practical.

Initially, the Council withheld its approval of the property acquisition because there was no clear title to the mineral rights of the property. Also, bids for the hall's construction were excessive and additional bids were sought.

Politically, some Council representatives were opposed to the hall, fearing the hall would drain revenue from the McIntosh district's Checotah and Eufaula bingo halls, resulting in less total bingo revenues.

McIntosh District Representatives Sandy McIntosh and Tommy Newton voted against the proposal. Creek District Rep. Mose Cahwee abstained.

The newest facility will be located at U.S. Highway 69 and Peak Boulevard in Muskogee. The hall has been projected to generate an additional $400,000 annually to the tribal treasury.

With halls in Tulsa, Okmulgee, Bristow, Checotah, Eufaula, Muskogee is seen as the last major market within the Creek Nation for high stakes bingo.

Okemah communuity dispute taken to court

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

OKEMAH -- Alleging Okemah Indian Community board of directors have violated federal law, tribal, and community constitutions, two former officers have petitioned the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court to place restraining orders upon the current board.

Those served were: Wilman Berryhill, chair; Cainey Roberts Jr., vice-chair; Inda McGertt, secretary; Rebecca Stroud, treasurer; and Tony Martin, smokeshop manager.

Former chair Jimmie Johnson, former treasurer Betsy Tiger and their attorney, M. Allen Core, Tulsa, allege the board of directors have violated the Indian Civil Rights Act, the Muscogee Constitution, and community constitution by ''interfering and asserting powers and authorities as officers of the board of directors whereby such powers do not exist.''

In October 1991, the following officers were elected: Johnson, chair; Berryhill, vice-chair; Lou Tilly, secretary; Tiger, treasurer; and Ernestine Boatman, member. Tilly resigned and was legally replaced by McGertt. According to the March 16 petition, on Jan. 9 a petition to remove Tiger from the board was presented to the community, upon which the community members voted her out of office. Article VI of the community constitution provides for the removal of officers by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors, states the filed petition. The constitution ''provided that the director to be removed be given a hearing before the board of directors to refute those reasons.'' The plaintiffs contend Tiger's removal a violation of tribal and community constitutions as well as the ''due process and equal protection of requirements of the Indian Civil Rights Act.''

The plaintiffs' petition states Johnson was compelled to resign because of ''illegal acts'' of certain board members and the removal of Tiger. The plaintiffs alledge Martin was signing all community checks, including his paycheck. The plaintiffs' petition states this as a violation of article VIII of the community constitution. It requires all orders of payment have two signatures of either the chair, vice-chair, secretary or treasurer, unless otherwise directed by the board or required by law.

The petition states the defendants refuse to recognize the validity of the election of Boatman as a member of the board of directors. The plaintiffs contend it also violates tribal, and community constitutions, and the Indian Civil Rights Act. The petition states without Tiger and Boatman on the board, the actions of the board are not valid, persuant to article VI. The plaintiffs contend Johnson resigned the

please see **OKEMAH**, page 14

Tribal briefs

JTPA accepting student applications

OKMULGEE -- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Job Training Partnership Act will be accepting applications for the summer youth employment program at area schools from April 27 through May 22. Program counselors will be available at schools to take application for students. Applicants and parents need to check local newspapers and flyers posted at schools for the dates counselors will be available.

Students ages 14 to 21 are eligible for the program, but because of limited funding, priority will be given to those students ages 16 and over.

Students are asked not to come to the JTPA offices at the tribal capitol complex to complete an application. Counselors will complete the application process for the students at the schools. For more information, contact the JTPA program at (918) 756-8700.

Kellyville distribution time changed

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Food Distribution Office has changed the delivery date for the Kellyville Indian Community. The date and time will be the second and fourth Wednesdays 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Kellyville Indian Community Center.

Head Start centers taking applications

OKMULGEE -- Creek Nation Headstart Centers will be taking applications for enrollment during the months of April and May for school year 92/93. Birth certificate; CDIB/citizenship; verification of income; and immunization records are needed for enrollment.

Creek communities staying busy this spring

Food, fellowship, and fun fill Creek community calendars

compiled by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

MNN staff photo

Pictured at the ground breaking ceremony for the Duck Creek Indian Community are, from left to right: Harvey Gilroy, Ron Matthews, Second Chief Shelly Crow, Wilbur Monday, Principal Chief Bill Fife, Sonny O'Hern, Council Speaker Clarence Cloud, Charlie Litsey, Renwick Adams, and Martha Davis.

Koweta

-- Koweta Indian Community held its Easter dinner April 18. All community members were invited to the potluck dinner. An Easter egg hunt was held following the dinner.

-- Mvskoke citizen Charlie Coker is teaching patchwork classes at the community center. Classes are held on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. Classes cost $5 for community members and $25 for non-members.

-- Mvskoke hymn singing classes are held at 7 p.m. every Tuesday night. George Doyle, Snake Creek Baptist Church member, has been instructing the class.

Muskogee

-- Muskogee Indian Community held an Easter dinner for elders April 16. The dinner was held by the community's recently opened elders' nutrition program.

-- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in honor of the program April 6. A birthday cake was also presented to community member Clarence Alton Pittman of Muskogee. The original allotee turned 87 on April 6.

Wetumka

-- On April 9, the Wetumka Indian Community elders held a rummage sale and bake sale. The proceeds will be used to purchase a van for the community.

-- The community held an Easter egg hunt for community children April 13.

-- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Administration Chief Barton Williams gave a demonstration with a drug dog. The dog, ''Chaz,'' is owned by Dr. Ted Lewis, Okmulgee County medical examiner, who makes him accessible to the lighthorsemen and the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Department.

-- At 6:30 p.m., April 30, the community is holding a birthday social for all community children with birthdays in the month of April. The birthday social will be held at 6:30 p.m., on the last Thursday of each month.

-- The community is holding a coed volleyball tournament beginning at 9 a.m., May 2. The $35 entry fee is due April 29. First place winners will receive tank tops, second place will be awarded caps, and third place winners will receive a team trophy. For more information, call the center, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at (405) 452-3131 or (405) 452-5768, after 5 p.m.

-- At 6:30 p.m., May 23 an end of school wiener roast will be held for community youth.

-- Winners of the community's sweetheart contest include Queen Maxine Harjo and King Winston Billy, in the adult category. In the children's division, Davis Lewis and Andrea Taylor were the winners. Isaac Byrd and Sidney Loggins won in the toddlers' category.

-- The community has ceramics available for sale. Community members paint and make ceramics on a daily basis, all community members are welcome to participate, said Francis Tiger, community treasurer.

Dewar

-- Dewar Indian Community held an Easter dinner and egg hunt for community elders April 16. Prize eggs were included.

Beggs

-- Beggs Indian Community will be holding a chicken dinner May 2, beginning at 11 a.m. The dinner will be held at the Johnson Family Center in Beggs. Community members will be selling the tickets for $3.

Proceeds will be used to fund a scholarship for a Beggs High School Creek senior.

Oklahoma City

-- The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association is holding an all day garage sale May 2. The sale will be held at the association office, located at 711 S.W. 29th.

Okmulgee

-- Okmulgee Indian Community held its annual sweetheart contest prior to its regular February meeting.

Kyle Clark

Winners are LaQuita Adams, Kyle Clark, and Holly Dunn. Adams is the daughter of Lisa Toney and maternal granddaughter of Chiquita McNac, both of Okmulgee. Dunn is the daughter of George and Barbara Dunn, Morris. Her maternal grandparents are Eliza Sanders, Stillwell and Charlie Holcomb, Tahlequah. Paternal grandparents are the late Wesley and Joan Dunn. Clark is the son of Don and Angie Clark, Okmulgee. Maternal grandparents are Everett and Etta *Checotah of Okmulgee. His* maternal great-grandmother is Elizabeth Starr of Okmulgee. Paternal grandparents are Pat Clark, Oklahoma City and Dean and Edie Clark, Okmulgee.

Sweetheart Contest
1992

Holly Dunn

Winners of the community's two $25 drawings were George and Holly Dunn. Community members Claude Cox, Ned Hodge, Richard Hodge, Chiquita McNac, and James Yeager were winners of grocery baskets given away at the meeting.

Sapulpa

-- The Sapulpa Indian Community held a social dance April 11. Music from the 1960s was played at the dance.

-- Low impact aerobics are held at the community office from 6 to 7 p.m., each Thursday. Opal Harjo is the class instructor.

-- Following aerobics class, country and western dance classes are taught by Carla Main. The classes are held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., each Thursday.

-- Yuchi classes are held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., each Sunday and 7:30 to 9 p.m., each Tuesday. Classes are taught by Maggie Marsey. The community is seeking a Mvskoke language teacher. The individual must be a fluent speaker, reader, and writer of the language. For more information, regarding the position, call 227-3234.

All classes are held at the community office, located at 1030 E. Taft, Suite 110 in the Creek Hills Mall.

please see COMMUNITIES, page 5

Communities offering many springtime activities

continued from page 4

Bristow

-- The Bristow Indian Community will be holding an Indian art show, taco dinner, and flea market on the weekend of May 16 and 17. All artwork must be framed and/or matted and for sale. Artwork must be delivered no later than 5 p.m., May 15 to the Bristow Indian Community Center, 121 W. Lincoln.

Copy of Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), must accompany all submissions. Information pertaining to the artwork, such as price, dimensions, media, title of work, artists' tribal affiliation, and brief biographical sketches are encouraged.

The art show opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., May 16. Indians of all tribal affiliations may enter artwork in the show's two age groups. Winners of the youth category, ages six through 12, will receive: $50, best of show; $35, second place; and $15, third place. Adult show winners, ages 13 and over, will receive: $100, best of show; $75, second place; and $40, third place. The show will be held from 12 to 6 p.m., May 17. Artists may set-up their artwork for sale; the set-up fee will consist of 10 percent of each artist's profits. For more information, call community chair Judy Riley at (918) 367-5101.

-- A taco dinner will be held in the community center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 16. The cost of *the dinner is $3.50.*

-- A flea market will also be held in the center parking lot May 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booth space is available for $3; first-come-first-serve.

-- Community member Alfred Moody and Tahlequah Cherokee Alfed Nix were the hog fry cheifs at the community's recent onion dinner. Assisting them were community members Curtis Simmers and Jess Watson.

Tulsa

-- The Tulsa Creek Indian Community would like all are Creek youth interested in its youth council to contact the TCIC office at 832-7062.

Glenpool

-- The Glenpool Creek Indian Community members are holding a variety of classes this month, including a self defense class.

The Wing Chun Kung Fu classes will begin April 27, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the community's activity center. The classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Monday and Thursday of each week. Individuals 14 and over may enroll in the class. The cost is $25; the class instructor is Bart Kelley.

Beadwork classes are being held at the community center every Monday at 6 p.m. The class costs $20; the class instructor is Rusty Lowe.

In late April, the community will be offering pottery and patchwork classes. The pottery class will cost $30 and be taught by Jay McGirt. Cora Billie will be teaching the patchwork classes; the cost will be $25.

-- Around 450 people were in attendance at the recent birthday dinner and stompdance held for community member James Proctor.

Hanna

-- The Hanna Indian Community youth held an ''Easter Hunt for Cash'' April 11.

-- Winners of the community's March 21 volleyball tournament are Okemah Indian Community, Okemah; No Limit, Okmulgee; and Side Out, Okemah.

Checotah

-- The Checotah Indian Community has been actively supporting the city organizations of its community with donations and offering the use of its facilities. The community recently donated $150 to the Beta Sigma Phi eldercare smoke alarm detection program. The money will go toward the purchase of fire alarms to be installed in the homes of elder Checotah citizens. Beta Sigma Phi is a Checotah ladies sorority. The community donated $500 to the Checotah Public Schools 4-H and Future Farmers of America livestock show.

The community also donated a total of $2,400 for the sponsorship of four local girls and boys' softball teams. The community has also allowed the teams to use its center for fundraising activities. ''It's good for the community, as a whole, to be involved. It makes a difference in how the (non-Indian) community perceives the (Indian) community,'' said community board of directors chair Charles Skaggs.- The community has provided food for 189 families through its Desert Share program distribution.

Eufaula

-- The Eufaula Indian Community held an Easter egg hunt and dinner April 18.

-- At 7 p.m., April 23, the community will have an achievement awards banquet for community students. Awards will consist of students who have excelled in academics, art, music, and sports. The community will recognize all seniors and present them with a gift from the community. Special guest speaker will be Creek Nation Social Services director Bunny Hill.

-- The community is still taking its youth skating at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. Youth may sign up to go skating at the community office.

-- The Indian community middle school boys and girls recently won their games against Jones Academy.

-- Winners of the community's March 21 volleyball tournament are: first place, Kahunas, Tahlequah; second place, Tahlequah Indians, Tahlequah; and third place, Okmulgee Indian Community, Okmulgee.

Eight teams entered the tournament and profits are deposited into the youth activity fund account, said Jerry Francis, community activity coordinator.

Okfuskee

-- Okfuskee Indian Community members will be organizing the Creek Nation Festival volleyball tournament, said Sharon Hicks, community reporter.

For information, regarding the tournament, call Annie Hicks at (918) 623-1963 or Sharon Hicks at (918) 623-0555.

Dustin

-- Dustin Indian Community is holding its regulat meetings on the second Monday of each month at the Dustin Public Schools cafeteria beginning at 7 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 11.

Twin Hills

-- The Twin Hills Indian Community has scheduled its regular meetings for the Monday prior to the last Saturday of the month at the Twin Hills Schools cafeteria beginning at 7 p.m..

Inactive Indian community gets back on its feet

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

TWIN HILLS -- A recent meeting between tribal officials and area Twin Hills Creeks may have the defunct Indian community on its feet again.

The community was originally chartered in July 1983, although because of inactivity, the community eventually quit holding functions around 1985, said newly elected community chair Dorothy Meyer. The community has a land base of 10 acres, which is located north of Concharty Methodist Church. Members formerly met in a trailor house located on the property, although now it is not suitable for community operations, A.D. Ellis, Okmulgee District National Council representative, said.

Meyer, who also served as the first chair in 1983, said the lack of a meeting place won't present an obstacle to the newly reformed community. ''We'll just go right into (organizing). It's not going to slow us down. ''The community, which will meet in the Twin Hills Public Schools cafeteria, plans to start fundraising activities as soon as it is assured the community constitution and by-laws are in place, she said.

Steve Landsberry, community services specialist, said although the community has been inactive, its constitution is still valid. ''The charter is more or less a living instrument which says there is a formal relationship with the community

please see TWIN HILLS, page 15

Youth, elders observe birthdays

Wynter Dawn Wind

PALMS, Calif. -- Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wind III wish to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Wynter Dawn Wind.

Wynter was born Feb. 16 at the Naval Hospital 29 Palms, to William ''Chebon'' and Sally ''Tooter'' Wind of Palms, Calif. Wynter weighed 7 pounds, 9.6 ounces and was 20.5 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are Roman and Dora Hill of Bowlegs. Maternal great-grandparents are Jimmy and Nancy Carbitcher of Bowlegs. Paternal grandparents are Cora Billie of Wewoka and the late Joe Billie Sr. Paternal great-grandparents are Zelma Wind of Cromwell and Jesse Wind Jr. of Wewoka

Karissa Rose Warrior

Karissa Warrior

CUSHING -- Karissa Rose Warrior, Yuchi-Creek, celebrated her second birthday on March 17. Karissa parents are Sam and Elizabeth Warrior of Cushing. Her paternal grandparents are Rose and Lewis Warrior of Cushing.

Spokogee Kyle Watson

ADA -- Spokogee Kyle Watson, was born Jan. 27, at Valley View Hospital in Ada. He weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces and was 18 inches long at birth. His parents are Joyce Starr and Raymond Watson.

Maternal grandparents are Cecil Waston Sr. of Tuba City, Ariz. and Abbie Larney of Holdenville. Great-grandparents are the late George ''Toby'' Alexander and Hattie Alexander of Lamar, Edna Lowe of Seminole, and Elizabeth Starr of Okmulgee.

Lovana Jackson

OKEMAH -- Arbeka Tribal Town member Lovana Jackson turned 66 years-old recently. She was born March 1, 1925. She camps at Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground and is actively involved in the Mvskoke Tribal Town Center, Inc.

Pauline Billy and Thomas Berryhill

Pauline Billy

Tom Berryhill

SCHULTER -- Pauline Pakoska Billy and Thomas Berryhill Sr. recently celebrated their 79th birthdays at Billy's home.

On March 23, 1913, Billy was born to Noah and Evelyn Martin Pakoska in the Morris area. Berryhill was born to Joseph and Annie Canard Berryhill March 24, 1913 in old Sharp community. He is the widower of the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill.

Billy and Berryhill are both members of Honeycreek Methodist Church. Billy belongs Cussetah Tribal Town and the Alligator Clan. Berryhill belongs to Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and the Wind Clan.

Toney Hill

Toney Hill

OKEMAH -- Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground Mek'ko Toney Hill recently turned 78-years-old. He was born Feb. 16, 1914. He is the Mvskokullke Etvlwa Etelaketa chair. Hill is the widower of the late Irene Simmons Hill. They were married 49 years. He has 11 children and several grandchildren.

Wilson High School student Jim Berryhill had the top swine entry at the Okmulgee County Spring Livestock Show, earning Grand Champion honors.
Berryhill is the son of Retha Moore and Jim Berryhill. He is the grandson of Martha Berryhill.

Creeks in service

Floyd Smith Jr.

Floyd Smith

PHOENIX -- Airman First Class Floyd E. Smith Jr. is stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Ariz. Smith is an F-16 aircraft mechanic. He joined the service a year after graduating from Will Rogers High School, Tulsa, in 1988. He served in Germany from April 1990 to July 1991 and voluntarily served five months in the Persian Gulf War. Smith is the 21-year-old son of Floyd and Mabelle Smith. His maternal grandparents are June and Delina Manawa, all of Tulsa.

Tulsa district Council representative receives investigative award

GLENPOOL -- City of Glenpool Chief of Police Larry Bible, Creek, was recently nominated for the Professional Police Investigators Award.

Larry Bible

Bible, also Muscogee (Creek) National Council Tulsa District Representative, was nominated by Glenpool city manager Dan Gibson. Gibson nominated Bible for his recent solving of a murder case. When the bones were found in early 1991, the victim had been deceased for six and one-half years; the only clue to identification was a ring, Gibson said.

''It was almost like finding a needle in a haystack. Not only did he positively identify the victim, but he ended those years of uncertainty for the that family,'' said Gibson.

Bible has been a council member for 10 years. He has been the city's chief of police since November 1981, Gibson said. He was a City of Jenks police officer prior to his tenure.

The Florida based organization will announce the award winner late this month, Gibson said.

Okmulgee area IHS field sanitarian receives merit award

OKMULGEE -- Donna Frank, a field sanitarian for the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health, Okmulgee, has received the Award of Merit for her success in promoting emphasis areas and her dedications to clients. Her supervisor, Bud McCombs, said Creek tribal officials have recognized Frank for her energy and innovative style and have utilized her contributions in her planning and service delivery efforts. Frank, Choctaw, serves on the Creek Festival and Rodeo Committee.

Yuchi Sapulpan signs gospel songwriting contract

by Kathleen Wallace
Sapulpa Daily Herald

SAPULPA -- Jan Evans, Yuchi, of Evans and Rhythm, recently singed a contract with Chestnut Publishing Company of Nashville, Tenn., to publish two of her gospel songs. A contract for three other songs will be signed as soon as they are rewritten.

Evans and Rhythm is made of up of Jan, her sister Darla and Grant, her brother. ''We all write songs - mine just got picked first.''

''God gave me the best,'' she said, in talking about the publishing company. The signing of the contract was also a surprise to Jan because the song Eddie Crook, owner of Chestnut Publishing, liked the best was a surprise.

''It was the one song I did not think would make - Not Gonna Take It Anymore. 'The devil has pushed me around - I'm not going to take it anymore,' are a few lines from the song,'' said Evans.

The song was written by Jan after experiencing something crucial in her life.

''I thought 'What's the use? 'like most Christian people do,'' Evans said. ''It's a song that people can relate to.''

Jan's other song that will be published is Endtime Revival. ''This is the song that I think will make it,'' she said.

Two of Darla's songs, 'Down On My Knees' and 'Never Stop Loving You,' have been signed along with the two songs mentioned above and other song written by Evans, 'You Promised.'

Over 80 songs have been written by the members of Evans and Rhythm, a gospel singing group and band made up of Jan and family members. ''All the songs we sing we have written,'' she said.

This is not the first of the songs sent to be considered for publication. ''Grant started first sending songs,'' she said of her brother. Jan began sending her work in January and the first response received was in February.

''Eddie listened, wanted it rewritten and after I rewrote it (within a week) I sent it off and within a week he called and said he wanted the song. We were told it would take six weeks for a response, it took two weeks,'' she said.

Grant traveled to Nashville to take four song demos on tape and meet with Eddie Crook. He was told by the manager of the publishing company that the sound of Evans and Rhythm is very different and unique. Within the next few months Evans and Rhythm could be signing a recording contract with the company.

Evans keeps busy working two jobs as a part-time photographer at the Herald and also publishing the Kellyville paper, The Pony Express.

She is the daughter of Rev. H.G. and Barbara Evans. Rev. Evans is the pastor of Faith Tabernacle and Jan said she is definitely a ''P.K., or preacher's kid.'' Mrs. Evans also writes songs, mostly country gospel.

The Evans siblings started singing at an early age. Jan was five years old, Grant was three and Darla was only two. ''We sounded like Alvin and the Chipmunks, she said. ''We sang harmony.'' For ten years they did not sing together, but then began again in 1989.

Jan plays the piano, bass guitar, drums, and percussion. She always plays percussion on stage during concerts. When writing the songs, Jan said the songs just come to her.

''It's like a book idea -- it just happens. It's inspired by God.''

Evans and Rhythm appears each year in the Youth Explosion and Sapulpa Fest.

Creek students excel in pageants, academics, and art contests

Ganiene George

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Ganiene Lois George has been selected to run for Miss Pre- Teen Oklahoma in conjunction with East Coast Pageants, Inc. of Orlando, Fla. to be held in Oklahoma City, May 17, 1992.

Ganiene George

She belongs to the Creek and Comanche tribes. Ganiene is the daughter of Gene and Carol George, Holdenville, and the granddaughter of Roy and Nora George, also of Holdenville.

Her maternal grandparents are the late Harold Pocowatchits of Fletcher and her great-grandmother is May Monetatchi, Fletcher. She is also the great-granddaughter of Woogie Watchitaker, renowned Comanche Indian artist. Ganiene has three sisters, Dianna, Nora, and Charlene.

Ganiene is a student at Thomas Elementary School and has been on the principal's honor roll her first year and the superintendent's honor roll the past two semesters.

Judd Pickering

EUFAULA -- Creek student Judd O. Pickering recently placed first in the Eufaula Library promotion poster contest.

Pickering's entry theme was ''support your public library.'' He received $25 and was presented a certificate of appreciation from Eufaula Mayor Joe Johnson.

Pickering is a fifth-grade student at Cooper McClain Elementary School. The recently held contest included the third through sixth grades.

He also entered the Amerind Risk Management Corporation's first fire safety poster contest in April, 1990. Pickering's entry placed first at the local level -- Creek Nation Housing Authority -- and placed second at the regional level. His poster was also selected for the corporation's 1992 calender; it represents the month of August. Each poster selected for the calender was chosen on the basis of enabling the corporation to call attention to specific fire safety themes. Pickering's theme was ''learn'em not to burn'em.''

He is the son of Tom and Judith Pickering, Eufaula. His maternal grandparents are Harriett and the late Yahola Tiger of Eufaula. His maternal great-grandmother is Susie Scott, Eufaula. James and Edna Pickering, Sapulpa, are his paternal grandparents.

Willie Haney Jr.

MORRIS -- Willie F. Haney Jr. recently placed second in the Okmulgee County Extension Homemakers seatbelt promotion coloring contest. He received a certificate and cash award.

Willie Haney Jr.

Haney, Creek-Seminole, is a fourth-grade student at Morris Elementary School. He is the son of Willie and Kathy Haney.

Sallie Cummings

EUFAULA -- Sallie Cummings, daughter of Susie and Jonas Higgins of Eufaula, was chosen student of the month. Sallie is the granddaughter of Martha Cummings, also of Eufaula.

Sallie Cummings

Sallie's achievements and awards include: chosen who's who, most likely to succeed; superintendent's honor roll. She also ranked ninth out of 73 in her class.

Her hobbies include playing softball. Her future plans include attending Connors State College and majoring in computer science.

The person who must influenced her was her grandmother, ''because she has been there with me through everything. She has helped encourage me in everything I do.''

Eufaula Indian Youth Council active

EUFAULA -- The Eufaula Indian Youth Council was reorganized in November 1991. The Indian youth of the Eufaula area saw a need for a council as they face problems of greater extremities than other non-Indian youth.

Although young people are most affected by the problems of Indian communities, they have had no voice in matters concerning them.

The Eufaula Indian Community Youth Council is a group of involved youth working together to find solutions to the unique problems they face. The goals of the council consists of young people helping others, growing in experience, developing leadership skills, having an effective voice on matters concerning them, and interacting for fun and fellowship.

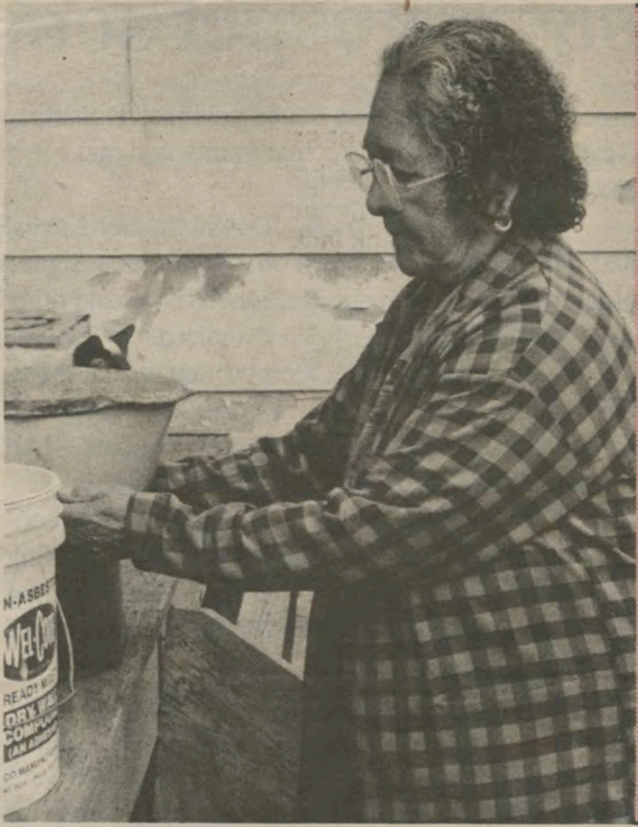
The youth council provides an opportunity for youth to develop into effective team players and leaders. It also serves as a rallying point and a means of mobilizing and directing the actions of their peers, other community members, and organizations toward positive goals. The youth council is in the process of obtaining a charter through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Eufaula Youth Council officers

Sheridan Pickering,
president
Kevin Parnosky,
vice-president
Jeremiah Eslick,
secretary
James Higgins,
treasurer

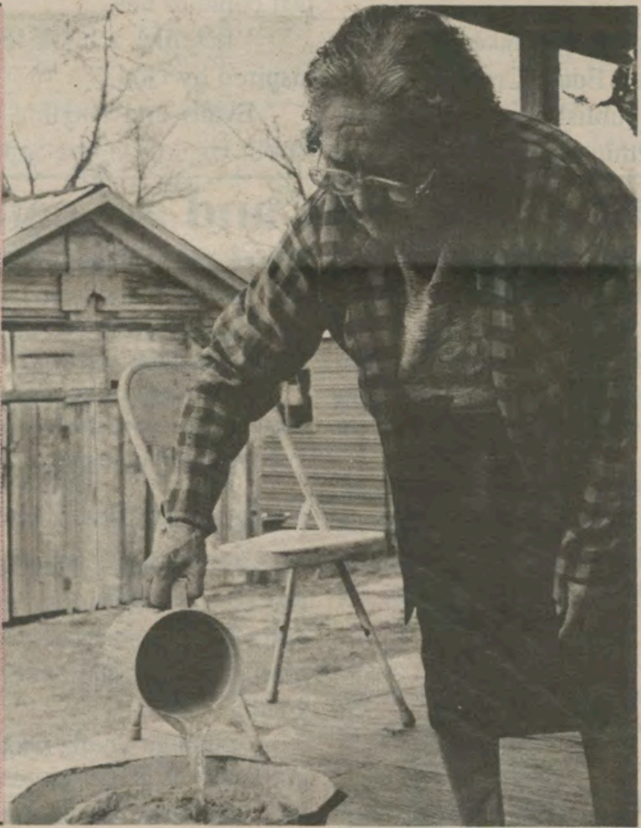
KV'BE CV'FKE

Mvskoke grandmother carries on dying tradition



GETTING READY
I. Nannie prepares her work station to make lye. Tools needed are: ashes, individual's choice; a leacher, a coffee can or basin with small holes; a pitcher, used to pour water into the sievelike container of ashes; a stewer, for catching the filtered liquid; a cloth, for straining; and mason jars, to store the finished product.

DUST BOWL
II. Nannie and her
as they empty a b
is using around a g
were somewhat o
heater) day and ni
ashes. But its bee



DRIP, DRIP, DRIP
IV. The filtering process begins as Nannie pours a pitcher of hot water into her ashes. She uses three pitchers (six quarts) of water for her first batch of lye. This will yield around two quarts of lye. For her second batch, Nannie will add four more quarts of water. When the leaching process is complete, it will produce around six quarts of kv'pe cv'fke.

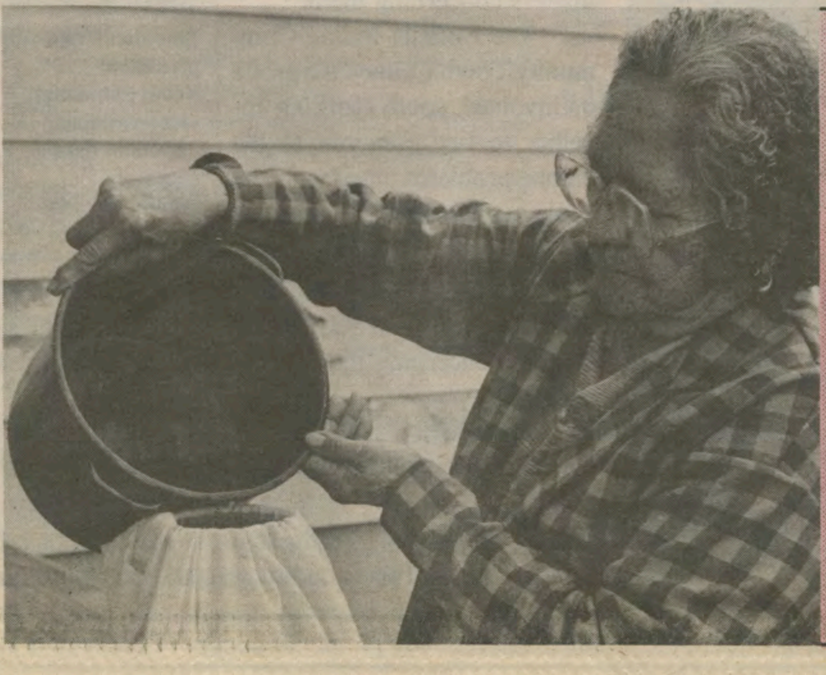
KV'PE CV'FKE

Most Mvskokes know what kv'pe cv'fke (lye) is.

To some, the word brings back memories of lye-soap-weilding grandmas, threatening to wash out foul, little mouths. Although who can hold that against the alkaline-based substance? All real este-cates know that sofke would not be sofke without the zing produced by kv'pe cv'fke. It also removes the v'ce cvlv'twe (flint corn) husks and gives it its yellowish color.

Whereas este-hv'tkes have always depended on meat and potatoes, the v'ce cvlv'twe and kv'pe cv'fke gruel has always been a staple among Mvskokullke people. Mvskoke ancestors used to set sofke outside their doors, en-

THE FIN

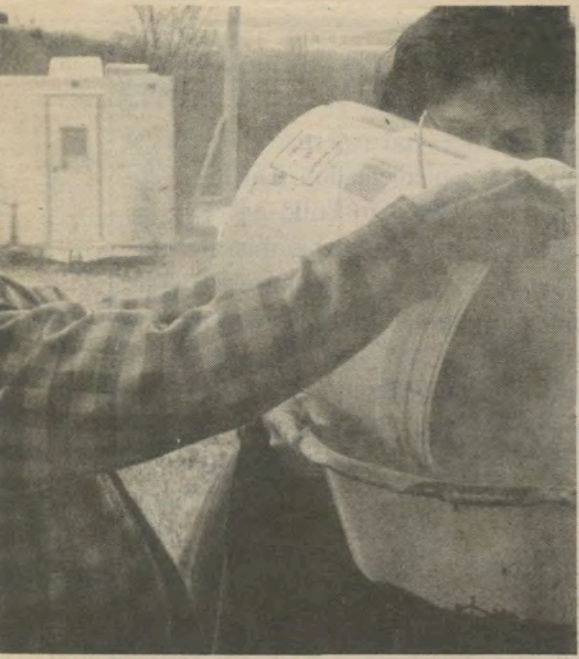


EASY DOES IT
VI. She carefully pours the extract into a cloth-covered, large glass jar.

Nannie warns the powerful mixture may irritate skin.

"It will itch your skin if its too strong," said the 83-year-old Little Cussetah Methodist Church member. She was born and raised in McIntosh County, near Hichita. She has five children, 14 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 10 cats. She resides in Dewar.

THE LAST STEP
VII. Nannie strains fine particles of blac
"Sometimes I have to strain it twice if

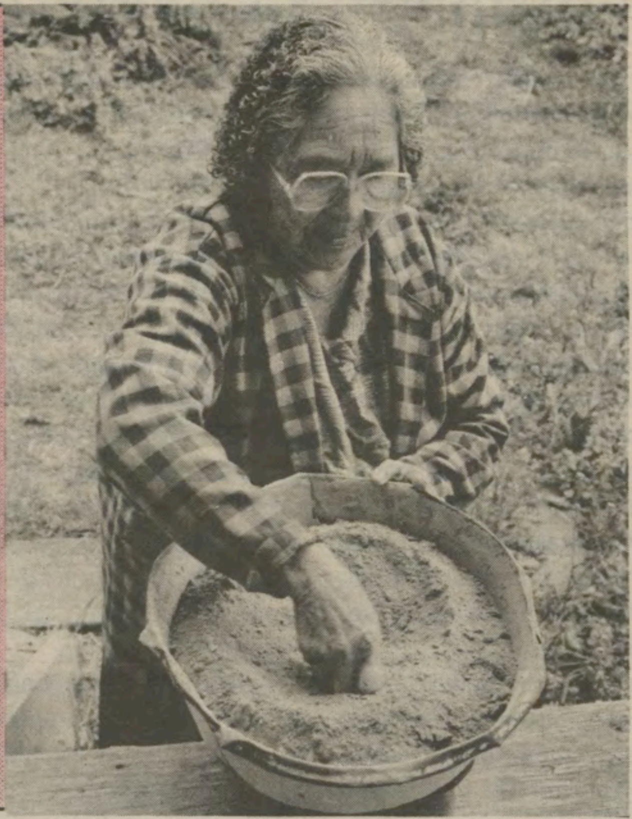


laughter, Linda Lowe, are enveloped in a fog
cket of blackjack ashes into a basin. Nannie
allon and one-half of ashes. This year, ashes
scarcity for Nannie. "If I burn (my wood
ht (for three days), I accumulate enough
warm and I haven't had that much ashes."

BLACKJACK BEST
III. Nannie runs her fingers through her sieve of black jack ashes in order to help the sifting process along.

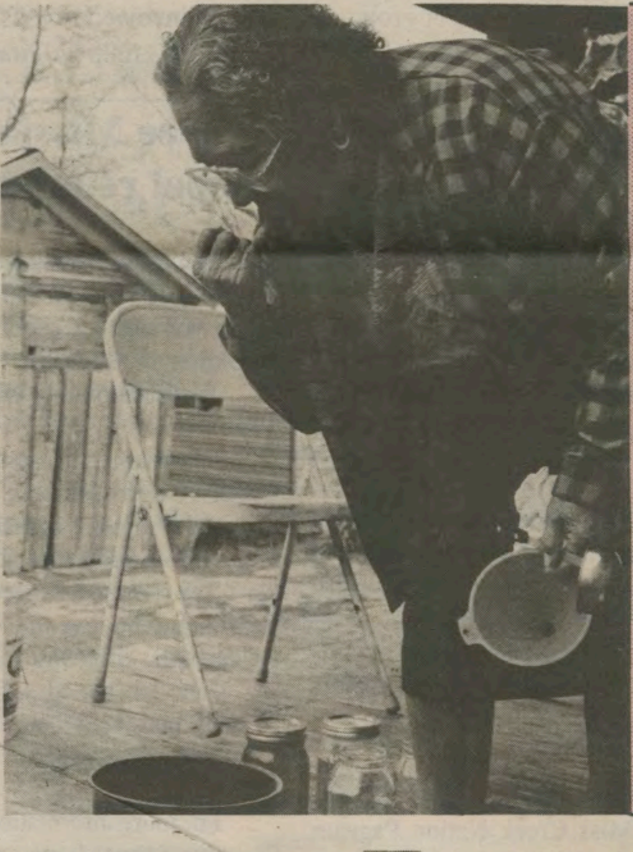
Nannie has been using blackjack ashes for over 40 years.

Which ashes are best?
"I think blackjack, that's all I've been using all the time," said the Apehkv Tribal Town and Tiger Clan member.



couraging all visitors to partake.
Nannie Downing McNac has been making lye over 40 years and is one of the few Henryetta area Mvskokes who still make it. It is the Apehkv Tribal Town women who have kept the tradition alive in this area.
Apehkv Ceremonial Ground members Nora Factor and Cindy Thompson are also skilled in the art of making kv'pe cv'fke.
Types of wood ashes used are blackjack oak, hickory, post oak, or red oak.
Experienced Mvskoke lye-makers would probably dispute the qualities of one tree's ashes over another. But wood ash selection is really up to individual preference.

AL PRODUCT



THE TASTE TEST
V.Nannie tests the potency of her lye. "When it's like this I use one-half cup of lye *in a gallon of* sofke," said Nannie of the strong, alkaline solution. "If you put too much in (sofke), it gets too red. It gets so strong you can't hardly drink it," she said, adding it will burn one's mouth and throat. "If you don't put enough lye in it, it turns white. I like mine strong."

jack ash out of her lye.
here are black spots in it."

THE WAIT
VIII. Nannie waits for her second batch of kv'pe cv'fke to finish draining. She makes lye three times a year. As Nannie is the source of several Mvskogeans' lye, many have probably tasted her kv'pe cv'fke in their grandmother's sofke. She sells lye to the Creek Nation Senior Citizens Gift Shop, as well as individuals.

Text and photos by
Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Housing authority to begin comprehensive grant program

Joe Jackson

OKMULGEE -- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing modernization funding on a formula basis to housing authorities to improve the conditions and upgrade the management and operation of existing housing. This program replaces the Comprehensive Grant Assistance Program. This year, CNHA's grant amount will be approximately $5 million. To receive this funding, the authority was required to develop a comprehensive plan, in consultation with residents, local (or tribal) government, and other interested parties.

Key elements of the comprehensive plan include: executive summary, physical needs assessment, management needs assessment, five-year action plan, local government statement, board resolution, and an annual statement. The comprehensive plan must be submitted to the HUD field office by June 15.

These consultation requirements include establishing a partnership process with residents to develop and implement the goals, strategies, and priorities identified in the comprehensive plan. The partnership process includes a required public hearing on the comprehensive plan and a meeting for resident groups at least three weeks before the public hearing. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 25, which follows the advance meeting held April 13.

The purpose of this notice is to announce the beginning of the CNHA's planning process to implement the CGP. Residents of public housing, along with local government leadership, have a vital role and responsibility in assisting the Creek Nation Housing Authority in developing and implementing its strategy for improving public housing operations in such areas as: modernization, maintenance, management, security, and resident empowerment initiatives.

A follow-up meeting to the April 13 meeting held at the tribal capitol complex will be held May 1 at 7 p.m. All democratically elected resident council representatives from each of the developments, along with local or tribal government officials and housing authority staff, will be involved in a CGP planning group.

This group will meet on a regular basis to ensure resident input, experience, and expertise and to assist staff in planning and implementation. During these meetings, the authority hope to build an effective partnership process which will enable this dynamic team of participants to address mutual concerns, while identifying significant problems and viable solutions towards improving the physical conditions and quality of life in the public housing community.

''I encourage resident leaders to organize their communities, meet in advance and plan their strategy,'' said Joe Jackson, housing authority executive director.

''This will provide all interested residents an opportunity to have their questions about the CGP raised early in our planning sessions.

''As a component of the partnership process, my staff also will provide any technical assistance you may need to participate in all phases of the CGP, as well as provide a current status of modernization and other activities.''

Contact Jackson or Ray Fish, assistant to the director, at 756-8504 or write P.O. Box 297, Okmulgee, OK 74447, to confirm interest and attendance at the meetings.

Tribal briefs

Housing authority gets 800 number

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Housing Authority of Oklahoma has installed a toll-free number. The new number, effective in April, is 1-800-259-5050. Joe Jackson, housing authority executive director, said the number will be convenient for clients and will help the housing staff respond quickly to client needs.

Headstart centers taking applications

OKMULGEE -- Creek Nation Headstart centers will be taking applications for enrollment during the months of April and May for the 1992-93 school year. Birth certificate; Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB)/citizenship; verification of income; and immunization records are needed for enrollment. The Creek Nation has centers in Eufaula, Okmulgee, Sapulpa, and Yeager.

Miss Creek Nation Pageant deadline set

OKMULGEE -- The Miss Creek Nation Pageant committee has set June 1 as the deadline for applications for Miss Creek Nation, previously titled Creek Nation Princess. Application requirements are:

-- must be 1/4 degree enrolled member of the Muscogee Nation (copy of enrollment card required);

-- must be attending high school grades 10 through 12 during reign;

-- never married, nor have children;

-- live within the Creek Nation boundaries;

-- submit two letters of recommendation;

-- submit an essay on why you would like to be Miss Creek Nation; and

-- must not co-habitate before or during reign.

Contestant will be judged in the following categories: personality and poise, traditional dress, essay, question and answer interview, talent (The Lord's Prayer or Indian sign language will not be accepted as talent).

For applications or further information, contact The Miss Creek Nation Pageant, attention: Pat Morgan, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447, or call (918) 756-8700.

Euchee Mission Boarding School reunion dates announced

OKMULGEE -- Euchee Boarding School reunion will be held June 19 and 20. All day registration will be at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Capitol Complex in Okmulgee, June 19.

Registration day will also include a viewing of the 1991 Reunion.

The reunion dinner begins at 12 noon, June 20 at the Creek Nation Complex. Alumni are asked to send in personal comments of their Euchee Boarding School days. Photographs are especially welcome.

Ten rooms have been reserved in the name of Euchee Boarding School at the Brittany Inn, located on Wood Drive (U.S. Highway 75) and 20th Street in Okmulgee.

June 1 is the cut off date for reserving rooms at the Brittany Inn. Reservations can be made by phone at (918) 758-0660 or by mail at 1221 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

For more information contact: Phillip Coon, Euchee Boarding School Reunion, at (918) 227-0896.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services seeking new executive director

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. is seeking an executive director. The nonprofit corporation, which provides free legal services to low income Native Americans in civil Indian status related cases, is located in Oklahoma City. Responsibilities include administration, fiscal oversight, community education, fundraising, litigation director, and maintenance of caseload. Minimum five years attorney experience, member in good standing of the Oklahoma Bar Association or willing to become member at earliest opportunity, and knowledge of Federal Indian Law required. Non-profit management, fundraising experience, and knowledge of legal services preferred. Salary range from $36,000 and up.

Submit resume with references to director search committee, 5900 Mosteller Drive, Suite 610, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

O.I.L.S., Inc., is an equal opportunity employer with an Indian preference policy. The position is open until filled.

Smith Family reunion dates set

LAMAR -- The Annual Smith Reunion will be held May 23, 1992 at Middle Creek Church, approximately eight miles south of Dustin.

The reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be games and door prizes. Please bring a covered dish. The family is looking forward to seeing all, especially those unable to attend last year.

Hickory Ground ceremonial ground sets food sale and bingo

HICKORY GROUND -- Hickory Ceremonial Ground holds a food sale and bingo on the first Saturday of each month. The sale and bingo will be held May 2. The food sale begins at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 7 p.m.

Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo committee seeking volunteers

OKMULGEE -- The 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo will bring thousands to Okmulgee June 19-21.

The annual tribal holiday offers a variety of activities for all ages.

In addition to the softball, rodeo, volleyball, and golf tournaments, this year's festival will feature special attractions for elders, a youth stickball tournament, and a bowling tournament.

Festival committee secretary Donna Frank Anderson said volunteers are welcome and needed. For more information call (918) 756-8700 or write P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

Creek Nation Housing Authority activities reported by board chair

by Ken Childers
Creek Nation Housing Authority

The Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners have been in office approximately 10 weeks. Since our installation, we have withstood five unauthorized terminations, three resignations, and one legitimate termination. However, this turnover in personnel has proven to have a positive affect on our housing authority.

We now have in place a new executive director, deputy director, an administrative assistant, executive secretary, two accountants, two inspectors, a low income manager, and we are interviewing for other positions. We also have a new 800 phone number.

We most recently signed a contract with the Creek Nation administration to inspect all of our mutual help homes which are ten years or older, for a possible renovation grant of three to five million dollars. The Choctaws signed a similar contract with a building company.

The Creek Nation Housing Authority believes in providing employment for Creeks. The application for this grant was made possible by emergency action by the present housing commissioners.

During our review and evaluation of the housing authority activities, we find we did not receive any appropriations for new houses in 1990, 1991, and 1992, because of the management of the housing authority. We were told by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development area office that the past Creek Nation Housing Authority commissioners had the most inadequate management of all Indian housing authorities in Oklahoma.

The houses that were built through these years were holdovers from previous appropriations. This loss of funds will affect us in 1993.

I am dumbfounded as to how or why the former board of commissioners and housing administration could allow our Creek people to be abused in this manner.

In February, HUD made a routine review and we are waiting for the final report. In March, we asked the absentee Shawnees and Chicaksaw housing authorities to review and make recommendations to upgrade our services. Both of these outstanding programs were impressed with our current staff and commented on our potential for improvement.

Hopefully, most of these dilemmas are now behind us. With an adequate staff and enthusiastic board, we shall progress. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the housing authority staff for their allegiance with the current board.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the principal chief and the National Council for my nomination and confirmation to the housing commission, and the board of commissioners for their confidence in allowing me to serve as their chair.

This dedicated housing board is working for you, the Creek people. We do ask for your cooperation and tolerance through these difficult times.

Second Chief answers to Oklahoma House Bill 1979

by Shelly Crow
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief

As the American Indian reflects on the past 500 years of dealing with the white man, what have they achieved?

In 1492, the northern continent was populated with 80 million Indians. Today there are approximately two million Indians in the United States.

Consider the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from 1867 to 1901. The land base, before the creation of the state of Oklahoma, was 3.25 million acres. Now, with protection of the federal government and Oklahoma court administration, the tribe is left with 145,000 acres.

Ironically, the word Oklahoma, is a Choctaw word meaning ''land of the red man.''

This year has been declared the ''Year of the Indian'' by Oklahoma Governor David Walters. His actions indicate that this means open season on Native Americans.

House Bill 1979, authored by Rep. Jim Isaac, D-Midwest City, would give the Oklahoma Tax Commission the right to enter tribal lands, arrest the motor carriers that transport cigarettes to Indian smokeshops and fine those smokeshop patrons after they drive off tribal lands.

If the OTC comes on Indian land, we'll file federal charges of trespass. If they confiscate tobacco, the charges will include robbery.

House Joint Resolution 1072, authored by Rep. Bob Johnson, R-Tulsa, Rep. James Holt, R-Ponca City, and Rep. Bruce Niemi, D-Tulsa, is also a way to get other funding that is necessary for Indian health care. It is a resolution requiring the director of the state Department of Human Services to investigate, study, and report on the duplication of efforts between Indian Health Service and state agencies.

The ''offer'' is that if tribes open IHS facilities to non-Indians, the state will open facilities to Indians who are Oklahoma citizens and taxpayers. Indians are now eligible for state services.

If the Indian and the non-Indian Oklahoma taxpayers are as smart as I think they are, what DHS is really doing is covering their tracks for mismanagement of funds for closing of Hissom Memorial Center.

Both bills attack Indian tribes as a resource for funding DHS. Why?

Is the taxpayer aware of the amount of funding used to close Hissom? It is more than $205 million. What did they spend the money on? Out-of-state consultants were paid $13 million. Does Oklahoma not have qualified individuals?

This state is in a depression. Who put us there? Who is going to bail us out?

The Indian people have always been sacrificed for the state of Oklahoma. We pay taxes to support DHS. We allow the federal government to manage our funds. Then they underfund us.

The Muscogean people have always cooperated with the state. The following could be allowed by our tribe under our sovereign status:

-- opt out of paying state tax for our employees;

-- demand the federal government give the tribe its share of Medicaid payment allocated to the state;

-- pull all Women, Infants and Children program dollars in our area;

-- pull food stamp programs funded for the state for Indians;

-- demand funds appropriated by Congress, earmarked for unemployment. These funds, returned to Oklahoma, are based on Indians that are also unemployed;

-- start our own universities; and

-- demand that the state name be changed.

This is an election year for the House of Representatives. There have been many treaties with Indian tribes broken in the name of progress for the United States and Oklahoma.

In reality, they have hurt both the Indian and the non-Indian.

Editor's note: The Associated Press reported March 28, that the House Bill 1979 will not be on the Oklahoma Senate Finance Committee agenda for this legislative session. AP quoted Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Cullison that he did not plan to move the bill ''unless we work something out.''

Glenpool Baptist mission holds spring revival

GLENPOOL -- Glenpool Indian Baptist Mission will hold its spring revival April 20 through 24, beginning at 7 p.m. nightly. The mission is located at 841 E. 141st St. The pastor is Rev. Paul Whitaker, Osage.

April 20 -- Bring a friend night. Rev Frank Moppin will preach.

April 21 -- Bring a neighbor night. Rev. A.J. Tiger will be preaching.

April 22 -- Childrens' night. At 6 p.m. ''tube steaks'' will be served to attending children. Balloon volleyball will be played until the 7 p.m. service. Pastor Whitaker will preach.

April 23 -- Family night. Rev. Allan Colbert, Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Association director of missions will be preaching.

April 24 -- Youth night. Rev. Steve Whitaker will demonstrate his message through karate.

A potluck dinner will be held following the service.

Tribal housing authority announces two vacancies

OKMULGEE -- The Housing Authority of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for the following positions:

-- development manager. Responsibilities include the development of projects for new construction; process proposed building sites, coordinating site evaluations, surveying, utilities, legal title, and environmental analysis. Work with surveyors, U.S. Indian Health Service attorney, participants and contracts. Applicant should have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma;

-- resource manager. Responsible for oversight of the operation of all on-going Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Programs (CIAP) activities for mutual help and low rent projects, Maintain files and records of all CIAP activities. Oversees the inspections of all rehabilitative work in progress, conducts wage interviews of labor force. Coordinates all activities with the contractors. Applicant should have high school diploma or GED.

Applications for the above positions will be accepted until April 30 and may be obtained from the housing authority office at the Creek Nation Tribal Complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56, Okmulgee.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

WILLIAM G. BARNETT

TULSA -- William "Byah Beaver" G. Barnett, died March 15 at the Tulsa Regional Medical Center. Barnett was born Aug. 9, 1924 in Eufaula. He is survived by: two sons, Beaver Barnett and John K Barnett; one daughter, Waikita Barnett of San Francisco; and a brother, Lewis Beaver.

THOMAS DEERE

WICHITA, Kan. -- Funeral services for Thomas "Tommy" Deere, 63, of Wichita, Kan., were held Feb. 15 at Indian Southern Baptist Church. Deere died Feb. 12. Deere was a retired machinist at Coleman Company. Survivors are: two sons, Dean A. Deere of Wichita, and Lloyd Deere of Shawnee; two brothers, Andrew and Ben Deere, both of Holdenville; two sisters, Mable Weaver of Holdenville and Susie Ware of Wichita; and five grandchildren.

ADRIAN LEE FACTOR

OKMULGEE -- Graveside services for Adrian Lee Factor, 1, of Okmulgee, were held March 6 at the Okmulgee Cemetery. Factor died March 4, in Okmulgee. She was born Dec. 4, 1990 to Benjamin and Traci Factor.

Survivors include: her parents; a brother, Clayton Factor; a sister, Chelsea Factor; paternal grandparents, Roberta Lee Garner of Tahlequah and Samuel J. Factor of Okmulgee; maternal grandparents, Benjamin and Andrea Barnett of Okmulgee; paternal great-grandparents, Thomas and Juanita Checotah of Okmulgee and Evan Peters of Okmulgee; maternal great-grandparents, Andrew and Anna Spaniard of Okmulgee; a host of aunts, uncles and other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Tom Factor, Edward Factor, Michael Marks and Kevin Tate.

REV. LOUIS FRANK HARJO

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Rev. Louis Frank Harjo, 61, of Okemah, were held March 12 at the Creek Chapel Methodist Church with Rev. Edwin Jimboy officiating. Harjo died March 9, 1992. He was born Feb.16, 1931 at Wetumka. He was a retired Indian Health Service employee. He also served as pastor of the Creek Chapel Church near Okemah for 20 years.

Harjo was a member of the U.S. Army and served his country during the Korean Conflict.

Preceding him in death was his father, Karlaney; mother, Katie Mecco; and a son, Edmond Harjo.

Survivors include: his wife, Lucinda of the home; two sons, David Harjo of Norman and Leroy Harjo of Okemah; two daughters, Dora Taylor of Tulsa and Linda Harjo of Okemah; one brother, Billy Joe Harjo of Weleetka; and one sister, Elizabeth King of Okemah. Interment was in Creek Chapel Cemetery.

MELISSA HARJO

TULSA -- Funeral services for Melissa Harjo, 88, were held Feb. 24, at the Creek Chapel Methodist Church. Revs. Felix Tiger and Edwin Jimboy officiated. Harjo died Feb. 21, at the Tulsa Regional Medical Center.

She was born Nov. 15, 1903 in Okmulgee County. She was the daughter of Martin and Minah White Kanard. She was married to Edmond Harjo in 1927 at Wewoka.

She was a resident of Okemah, a housewife, and a member of High Springs Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, two daughters, and her husband.

Survivors include: one son, Joseph Anderson of Okemah; two daughters, Eliza Berryhill of Tulsa and Lucinda Harjo of Okemah; twenty seven grandchildren; sixty eight great-grandchildren; and eighteen great-great-grandchildren.

Church members served as pallbearers.

ROMAN HARJO

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Roman Harjo, 89, of Bearden, were held March 26 at the First Baptist Church, Okemah, with Revs. Bryant Jesse of Weleetka, and James Anderson of Shawnee, officiating.

Harjo was born March 30, 1902, north of Cromwell. In 1910 he attended the Wetumka Boarding School. He also attended Nuyaka, Euchee and Chilocco boarding schools, and graduated from Bacone College in 1924.

In 1916 he was baptized at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church where he later pastored until 1964. He also pastored Pigeon Church until 1982.

During the 1930s he served as tribal secretary and interpreter under Principal Chief Roley Canard and continued in tribal affairs with chiefs Turner Bear, Roley Buck, and Billie Scott.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mandy, in January 1991.

Survivors include: one son, Allen Harjo of Tulsa; one daughter, Nova Carpenter of Utah; one step-daughter, Norma Douglas of Chandler; two foster daughters, Barbara Collins of Tulsa and Cora Bear of Wewoka; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Newman Harjo, Charley McGertt, Jimmy McGirt, Weaver Cheek, Glen Miller, and Lloyd Miller.

JACKSON HILL

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for Jackson Hill, 53, of Shawnee, were held at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. Redmond Wolf officiating. Hill died February 24 at Oklahoma City.

Preceding him in death were: his parents, Barney and Rosanna Hill; and a brother, John Hill.

Surviving relatives are: his wife, Beverly Hill of the home; a son, Clarence of Oklahoma City; a daughter, Rebecca of Oklahoma City; a step-son, Darryl Harjo; and step-daughters, Michelle and Melissa Harjo, all of the home; a sister, Margaret Harjo of Tecumseh; two brothers, Wilson and Benjamin Harjo, both of Oklahoma City.

LIZZIE JOHNSON

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for Lizzie Johnson, 71, of Spaulding, were held Feb. 21 at Dolton Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. George Jesse officiating. Johnson died March 18 in Oklahoma Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma City. Burial was in the Johnson Family Cemetery, west of Spaulding. She was born Aug. 9, 1921, in Spaulding, to Robert and Charlochee Byrdhead Johnson.

She was a lifelong resident of Spaulding. Survivors include several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

ANGEL HARJO JONES

TAHLEQUAH -- Funeral services for Angel Harjo Jones were held March 7 at Little Coweta Baptist Church, Lenna. Jones was stillborn March 3, 1992, at Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah.

Revs. Phil Lawrence and Kenneth Loma officiated. Music was by the Little Coweta choir. Special music was by Beverly Pierce and Jennifer and Washington Cummings.

Casket bearers were Washington Cummings Jr. Attendants were Curtis Postoak, Gilbert Dan Sr., Gilbert Dan Jr., Jody Akers, and Matthew Cummings. Interment followed in the Little Coweta Cemetery.

Survivors include her parents: Stephanie Harjo and Isaiah Jones Jr., of Eufaula; one sister, Sasha Jones of Bartlesville; grandparents, Rickie and Paul Postoak of Wewoka and Vera and Isaiah Jones Sr., of Eufaula; great-grandparents, Maybell Moore of Eufaula, and the late Freeland "Bud" Moore and the late Margie and Isaiah Jones; two uncles, Curtis and Eli Postoak, both of Wewoka; six aunts, Jennifer Dan, Sharon McCoy, Margie Jones, Beverly Pierce, Karen Henley, and Brenda Kemp; two great-aunts, Pat Dominic and Linda Cummings; and a host of other relatives and friends.

ANDREW JOSHUA

SULPHUR -- Funeral services for Andrew Joshua, 71, of Spaulding, were held Feb. 24 at the Middle Creek Two Church with Revs. Barney Walker and Edward Bear officiating.

Joshua died Feb. 21 at the Oklahoma Veterans Center in Sulphur. Joshua was born Jan. 30, 1921 in Hughes County to Amos and Lucindy Joshua. He attended Bacone College in Muskogee and served in the United States Army overseas during World War II. After the war, he returned to this area and was employed by Tinker Field Air Force Base as a stockman. After becoming disabled he retired in 1954.

He was first married to Jo Anna Fixico in the early 1950s. She preceded him in death in the 1970s. He married Wynema Foster in January 1977 at Sallisaw. He had been a deacon at Middle Creek for 41 years.

Survivors include: his wife, Wynema Joshua, of the home; one son, Daryl Joshua of the home; an adopted son, George Joshua of Wewoka; and two sisters, Elizabeth Miller of Holdenville and Wynema Joshua of Washington, D.C.

ROBERT McGIRT

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for Robert F. McGirt, 48, were held Feb. 22 at the Williamson Funeral Chapel, Wetumka, with the Rev. Joe Lowe Jr. officiating. McGirt died Feb. 20, at Oklahoma City.

Pallbearers were James Lowe, Jerry Lowe, Mike McGirt, Dan Narcomey, Sam Martin, and Paul Williams. Burial was in the McGirt Family Cemetery near Yeager.

McGirt was born March 20, 1943 at Talihina to Billy McGirt and Lillie Johnson McGirt. He was raised in the Yeager community, attended school at Yeager, Chilocco Indian School, and finished at Oklahoma City Capitol Hill High School.

He was a member of the Wewoka Methodist Church and a current resident of Wetumka.

Survivors include: his mother Lillie Canard of Wetumka; a brother, Fredrick McGirt of Oklahoma City; three sisters, Frances Tiger, Mary Jones, and DeeAnn Yargee, all of Wetumka; two aunts, Nellie Proctor of Holdenville and Emma Hudson of Mustang; two uncles, Tom McGirt of Holdvenille and Cecil Johnson of Calif.; also several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

TOM McGIRT

ADA -- Funeral services for Tom McGirt, 80, of Wetumka, were held March 23 at the Williamson Funeral Home Chapel, in Wetumka, with the Revs. Thomas Long and Frank McGeeley officiating. McGirt died March 19 at Ada.

McGirt was born Sept. 13, 1911, at Yeager, to Buckner and Linda Beaver McGirt. He was raised in the Yeager area and attended the Yeager School. He entered

please see OBITUARIES, page 13

Obituaries

continued from page 12

the US Army and served during World War II. Following his discharge, he returned to Yeager where he farmed for many years until his retirement.

He was member of the Wewoka Methodist Church in Yeager.

He was preceded in death by a nephew, Robert McGirt, on Feb. 20, 1992.

Survivors include: his sister Nellie Proctor of Holdenville; four nephews, Mike McGirt, Jerry Lowe, James Lowe, and Freddie McGirt; five nieces, Frances Tiger, Tochee Narcomey, Annette Lowe, Kay Lowe, and Linda Walker; several great-nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Pallbearers were Mike McGirt, Jerry Lowe, James Lowe, Dan Narcomey, Harry Walker, and John Factor.

OTTO MILLER

RICHMOND, Calif. -- Funeral services for Otto Miller, 92, of Richmond were held Feb. 6 at St. Cornelius Catholic Church. He died Jan. 31. He was born March 21, 1899 in Indian Territory. He lived in California for 46 years, where he retired from Standard Oil Refinery in 1964. Entombment at St. Joseph Cemetery, San Pablo, Calif.

Survivors include: a son, Thomas O. Miller of Richmond; a brother, Samuel H. Miller of Holdenville; three granddaughters, Katharine Howard, Carol DeVault, and Barbara Galentine, all of Calif.; eight great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Faye Miller, in 1988. Pallbearers were Charles Howard, Nicholas Howard, Jeffrey Howard, Andy Galentine, and Eric Galentine, his great-grandsons and Frank Shubat, a close friend.

NORA ROBERTS

CLAREMORE -- Funeral services for Nora Roberts, 65, of Okmulgee, were held March 14 at Nuyaka Baptist Church with Revs. Joe Smith and Wilson Hicks officiating. Roberts died March 10, 1992 in Claremore. She was born Sept. 25, 1926 in Okfuskee County.

She was a homemaker and a member of Nuyaka Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cholichar Roberts and Nancy Bear Roberts; brothers, Sam Roberts and Frisco Roberts; and a sister, Louise Roberts.

Survivors include: sons, Andrew Lowe Jr. of Tahlequah, Freeman Lowe of Okmulgee, and Rusty Lowe of Tulsa; a sister, Selee Deere of Okmulgee; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Interment was in the Nuyaka Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Roy Roberts, Felix Roberts, Jimmy Jones, Johnny Roberts, Fred Jones, Glen Jones and Harley Roberts Jr.

JACEQUELINE PERRYMAN

MOUNDS -- Funeral services for Jacqueline Perryman, 54, of Mounds, were held March 10 at the Broken Arrow Methodist Church. Rev. Roy Bigpond officiated.

Perryman was born Nov. 12, 1937 in Oklahoma City to the late Jack and Louise Nicely Frost. She died March 7.

She was raised in the Drumright area and moved to Tulsa as a teenager. She graduated from Will Rogers High School.

She married Eugene Perryman in 1975 and was employed as a secretary at St. Francis Hospital for 24 years.

Perryman was also an active member of the Broken Arrow Methodist Church.

She is survived by: her husband, Eugene of the home; five children, Shaun White of Mounds, Vicki Hocutt, Lance C. White, David White, and Mary Ruth, all of Tulsa; her mother, Louise Stockman; one sister, Cindy Stockman of Garland, Tex.; one brother, Mark Stockman of Garland, Tex.; two half-brothers, including Kevin Frost of Tulsa; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

LEE CURTIS WOODARD

CHECOTAH – Funeral services for Lee Curtis Woodard, 66, of Checotah were held on March 16 at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel. Officiating were Lee Marshall and Ray Lovelady.

Woodard died March 13.

He was born July 2, 1925, in Checotah, to Christopher and Beaulah Newberry Woodard. He married Virginia Thompson in 1946 at Ft. Smith, Ark. He was a retired merchant seaman and rancher. He entered the merchant marines in 1941. He was member of the First Baptist Church of Checotah and a member of the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots.

In 1992, Woodard received a medal for Outstanding Courage and Personal Contribution to allied forces in World War II from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). He was an active member and artist of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and The Newberry Research Society, Inc. Woodard was instrumental in efforts to preserve Honey Springs as a national Civil War battlefield park.

Survivors include: his wife, Sue of Checotah; one son, Tonkawa T. Woodard of Checotah; one daughter, Ambia Crain of Idabel; one granddaughter, Kia Crain; and one sister, Marjorie Shepherd of Texas.

Pallbearers were Jerry Fowlkes, Gary Llewellyn, Ray Lovelady, Michael Hughes, Daniel Llewellyn, Brett Keathly, Don Stidham, Lee Marshall, Michael Crain, Dick Bateman, and Lee Stidham.

13. Heyv omvlkvt vkvsvmkv ofvn pvsatkvtes, etem fvccetvt enheckvkekon, momis hopvyen ocen hecaket, em enhonrvke heret, otakakvtes, momet, Cuneckvlke momet tvleporvlket ekvnvn oh fulles, maket e oh kerkuecakvtes.

14. Nake momvke makakat ekvnvn hopoyaket omat heckusen kerkuecaket omekv.

15. Momen mehenwvn, mv ekvnv asossvtet vkerricakvten omat, oh fulecetv em etektvnkvke tayvtes.

16. Momis hiyomat ekvnv svmmome, hvlwe ocan eyacvket os; monkv en Hesaketvmese take kihocvre Hesaketvmeset em vlsekot os; emet tvlfvn em etetakuecvkvtet omekv.

Hepluvlke 11:13-16 (Hebrews 11:13-16)

ALICE JACKSON

ALBUQUEQUE, N.M. -- Funceral services for Alice Jackson, 52, of Farmington, N.M., were held March 28 at the Central Baptist Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Jimmy Anderson officiating.

Jackson was born May 6, 1939 in Shiprock, Ariz. She was married 30 years to Tecumseh Jackson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Shorty and Minnie Nez.

Survivors include: her husband of the home; two sons, Tim Jackson of Gallup, and Jim Jackson of the home; one daughter-in-law, Rhonda of Gallup; three sisters, Mary Joe, Marie Benally, and Julia Pesleski, all of Shiprock; a brother, Mark Dan of Shiprock; and a granddaughter, Timi Sheree.

Pallbearers were Blaine Stewart, Darin Baker, Kelly Ray Jackson, Robert Joe, Larry Dan, and Wallace Johnson. Honorary pallbearers were Vernon Dan and Robert Mark.

Interment was in the Greenlawn Cemetery.

Acknowledgements

Solomon Mithcell Beaver Family

After the recent, tragic, unexpected loss of our beloved son, and brother, Solomon Mitchell Beaver, we say thank you to Bunny Hill for assisting us with the tribal funeral and food assistance that is available to Creek citizens; to the Eufaula Indian Community for making it possible for our son, Richie, who is serving as missionary pastor at Cochin Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, Canada (working among the Cree Indians and other Canadian natives) his wife, Molline and son, John, to come by plane, thus saving them hours of non-stop driving, in order to make it home;

Also, thank you to the (Eufaula) Indian (Community) Nutrition Center for making the center available for serving the people and to Millie Colbert and John Mark Tiger for going that ''extra mile''.

Thank you, also, to the churches within the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association, as well as other churches, for their prayers and support. Thank you to the Revs. Morris, Barnett, Ernest Best, Phil Lawrence and Bro. Jimmy Davis, for their home visits, prayers, and words of encouragement.

Thank you to everyone who showed us love and outpouring of love-in-Christ, through their prayers, food, phone calls, visits, cards, love gifts, and the lovely flowers.

We will always remember acts of kindness the good people have afforded us. Thank you so much.

Raymond and Hattie Beaver and family

Donald George Family

The family of Donald George would like to thank all family members and friends for their support and kindness during our recent loss. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Council acts on '92 budget during lengthy March agenda

continued from page 3

''I have always supported education, health and welfare of our people,'' Little said. ''But we've got to stay within the present budget.''

Fife assured the Council that the present problems should be eliminated as his administration is now working on the Fiscal Year 1993 comprehensive budget, but that the increases are ''very important to progress.''

The breakdown of the increases by line items are:

-- $28,800 from tax and license revenues for the chief's office;

-- $62,405 from tax and license revenues and indirect appropriations for the office of controller. Included in the appropriation is a salary increase for a full-time controller. Before the March session, the tribal controller was a part-time position;

-- $47,637 from bingo revenues for social services;

-- $268,443 from bingo revenues for higher education;

-- $250,526 from bingo revenues to correct the budget; and

-- $169,344 from bingo revenues for real property and facilities.

In other business, the Council:

-- authorized the creation of the Creek Nation Farm Authority to oversee the administration of the tribe's farm and dairy operations;

-- authorized the chief to seek trust status, for the Eufaula Indian Community, for community-owned property;

-- reprogrammed aid to tribal government funds from security activities to law enforcement;

-- confirmed Martha Houle, presently of Kansas, to the citizenship board;

-- granted waterline easements across tribal property in Muskogee and in the Okmulgee district;

-- appropriated funds to the Glenpool Creek Indian Community to increase smokeshop inventory;

-- appropriated $19,027 to the Sapulpa Indian Community to meet its community development block grant request;

-- authorized negotiations to begin on an agreement for rural fire protection on tribal and trust lands;

-- authorized the chief to develop a contingency for additional housing improvement program (HIP) funds;

-- confirmed Abe McIntosh of Okmulgee, as director of human development. McIntosh had been serving as personnel director for the tribe;

-- confirmed Jim Hayes, a Checotah attorney, to the tribal Supreme Court;

-- authorized the executive branch to bid for a housing rehabilitation survey with the Creek Nation Housing Authority;

-- authorized the executive branch to pursue tribal self-governance planning grants and a management grant from Indian Health Service;

-- approved the tribal controller's position to full time at $50,000 annual salary;

-- authorized a $6,000 payment for the National Council staff's accumulated compensatory time at a rate of time and one half for each hour over forty per week;

-- approved a resolution for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to restore $1.7 million to Haskell Indian Junior College for FY 1993;

-- authorized modifications to the FY 92 Council budget for meetings, stipends, mileage reimbursements, phones, and office space;

-- approved a $7,500 supplemental appropriation to the Dewar Indian Community toward the purchase of a van;

-- authorized the elderly nutrition program to participate in the federal Administration on Aging;

-- confirmed Kay Farrow of Eufaula, to the health board;

-- authorized the Children and Family Services department to apply for grants for family violence and prevention, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, child abuse prevention from the Oklahoma Department of Health and Human Services, and to include comments for an application for a community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

-- confirmed Mike Factor of Broken Arrow, as tribal controller. Factor has been serving as acting controller since the beginning of the Fife administration.

Crayons continued from page 1

Multicultural crayons: the new politically correct school supply

inclusive.

Binnney and Smith Inc., the parent company of Crayola Crayon, recently revamped eight colors by reintroducing them in a separate package. The eight-pack comes in its familiar yellow and green box, which sports a global symbol and multicultural label.

The company was prompted to reintroduce the eight colors because of requests from teachers throughout the United States. Brad Drexler, media communications manager, said the colors originally came in larger, more expensive boxes. They were not economical for public school systems, so they were repackaged in smaller, more affordable boxes, he said.

Okmulgee Creek Nation Headstart teacher Barbara O'Neal is enthusiastic about the crayons. They are on her 1992-93 school supplies list. She said traditional crayolas do not accurately depict the skin tones of various races. The lack of multicultural crayons have presented a small problem in her class' study of other cultures. Right now we're studying Oriental people and ''they either have to use brown, or plain yellow, or leave them white,'' O'Brien said.

Drexler said the eight colors aren't intended to represent all skin tones; achromatic colors such as black and white have been included to vary and blend the skin tones.

''Multicultural color assortment contains six skin tone colors of the world which can be blended with black and white to create a wide variety of skin tones. By varying pressure while crayoning, deeper or lighter tones can be achieved to expand the color range in this culturally inclusive assortment,'' reads the box.

Other colors are apricot, burnt sienna, mahogany, peach, sepia, and tan.

The colors were made available to public schools, via school supply distributors, last November, Drexler said. Response has been overwhelmingly positive from teachers and children.

''It makes it easier for them to draw people of different cultures,'' he said.

There hasn't been a specific response from people of any culture, Drexler added.

He anticipates Binney and Smith will dispense the crayons, to the general public, by early summer.

''They may be on the shelves by back-to-school-time."

Okemah continued from page 3

Okemah Indian Community settling differences in court

office of chair because of acts of the board, thus his resignation should be withdrawn, allowing him to resume his role as chair. The plaintiffs are seeking community repayment of all checks signed by Martin.

The temporary order, placed by district court judge Patrick Moore, prevents the officers from conducting business without the plaintiffs. Martin is restricted from signing checks on behalf of the community. Community checks must have the signatures of two officers of the board before being issued. The order declares the defendents action in violation of tribal and community constitutions and the Indian Civil Rights Act. Moore declares the proper community officers to be those elected in October 1991, with the exception of Lou Tilly, who was properly replaced by McGertt. The court has prohibited the board from committing these illegal acts. The order also states the defendants may be liable for the plaintiff's expenses as well as ''other relief as the court deems just and equitable.''

Nancy Jukich, deputy court clerk, said the court is waiting for the defendant's attorney, Tom Stringer, Henryetta, to make an appearance in order for a court date to be set.

Chief remains committed to his agenda, goals and family

continued from page 1, column 4

als and citizens that just want to talk. I receive a lot of telephone calls about problems, communities, employment, and other things.

"A lot of this, I consider a matter that can be handled by other departments or personnel. Individuals here have been trained to go to the top or they think they can't get help without going to the top."

Public expectations of the new chief are great. After 20 years of one man's authority, Fife campaigned successfully on a platform of improved change.

Though administration insiders have been overwhelmed by the inherited problems and demands of the chief, public expectations have remained high.

The Muscogee Nation News conducted an informal poll of admitted Fife supporters regarding his first 100 days in office. Supporters were asked to rate the chief's first 100 days on various issues on a scale from excellent to poor. The poll is not scientific.

A Beggs resident however, said it was too early to be grading the chief.

Fife received high marks for his relations with the National Council, preparing and presenting his initiatives, and for his response to tribal political situations.

He did not fare as well on employee relations (salaries), health care, education or unemployment.

His grades ran the extreme on his response to Oklahoma political situations, health care, and fulfillment of his campaign promises.

Overall, those polled graded his first 100 days as average or below.

An Okmulgee district citizen said she felt compassion for the man because of the problems he inherited from the previous administration.

"Goodness, he inherited the IHS (Indian Health Service lawsuit) mess and there's no telling what problems the final audit will reveal."

Fife realizes the transition has been slower than expected. To his credit, the chief declines to place any blame on the previous administration. Because of some of the early problems, Fife believes people are not accustomed to his management style.

"I try to gather the facts before making a decision," Fife said. "If there are two sides to the story, I try to get both and I try to rely on my staff to keep me informed. I want to utilize their expertise."

Being chief is much different than being a National Council representative, though Fife says his experience as a legislator has proved beneficial.

"There is a lot of difference making the decisions in the everyday operations of the tribe," Fife said. "It was a good experience to be a Council member. Now, to have the opportunity to be the chief executive is exciting. It is a dream fulfilled, to be chief."

Fife has said he does not expect his reorganization to be complete until Fiscal Year 1993. October 1 will also begin his first comprehensive budget. Having both in place should prove beneficial to the chief's goals for the tribe.

Though aware of the criticism, Fife says the most difficult aspect of being chief is the disruption of his family life.

"Being chief has had a big impact on my family life," Fife said. "I almost feel like a stranger when I'm home (in rural Weleetka).

"My family has taken it real well and they have been real understanding. The personal things one needs to do with a family have been limited."

Fife said before he became chief, he used to visit his father, James, two or three times a week. Now, however, he sees his father once every two or three weeks.

"That isn't too good," Fife said.

Despite the criticism, the disruption of family life, and the frustrations of working within a cumbersome bureaucracy, Fife remains confident in his ability to lead and committed to his goals for the tribe. He's also optimistic.

"There's a lot of things I don't know and a lot of things I'm learning," Fife said. "When I get into a situation, I've got to rely on my background, experience, education, and common sense to make decisions.

"I think we'll make an impact on government for future years," Fife said. "I think we'll have more services, more jobs, and a smoother operating government.

"I've enjoyed the first 100 days."

Fife's first one hundred days exciting, demanding

continued from page 1, column 3

Council relating to the committees of independent agencies like the health board, the election board, and the citizenship board.

Fife said he is aware that people want change and elected him chief to make change, but he advocates gradual change because to do otherwise may have created confusion. Additionally, any change will have to be approved by the National Council.

"It's going to take a more deliberate approach," Fife said. "(This administration) is going to have to educate the Council to let them know what changes we want to make and show them how it will improve government operations."

Fife says the administrative and structural changes must be in place before he can begin implementing his programs to deal with unemployment, health, budget problems, and improved delivery of services.

As an example, Fife said he is trying to get the Creek Nation Construction and Development Company operational in order to bid on construction projects like the Muskogee bingo hall. The chief also noted a housing rehabilitation grant that should employ tribal members.

While it seems simple, Fife said a commercial code must be established so the tribe can conduct business with non-Indian entities. A code should have been written earlier Fife suggests, but adds his administration is researching a code.

During his first three months in office, Fife learned the Fiscal Year 1992 comprehensive budget was underfunded and some of the items were not in compliance with approved federal spending plans.

"One of the problems with the budget is that in-kind contributions (funds required by the federal government and other agencies for certain programs) due from the tribe were never addressed properly," Fife said.

Fife said that perhaps 40 to 44 percent of the FY 92 comprehensive budget was spent during the first quarter (October through December). Tribal ordinance limited that spending to 25 percent of the budget.

Rather than revise a budget that should have had 75 percent left in the treasury, Fife had to assess the damage, revise the budget, prepare legislation and then ask the Council for an $800,000 supplemental appropriation.

Recruiting professionals to work for the tribe has also prevented the chief from implementing his strategic plan.

Some professionals did not want to leave their present places of employment and other prospects have been deterred by politics and\or personalities.

Fife said other areas have required much of his time are public relations and planning. He admits he did not anticipate the demands of the public, though many consider planning to be one of his administrative strenghts.

"Eighty to ninety percent of the principal chief's term will be spent dealing with the public relations and planning," Fife said. "Making trips and dealing with the federal government and discussing the needs of the tribe are very important.

"It provides insight into national issues and I get to hear how other tribes are doing business."

Local events have been exacting also.

"I've included tribal citizens, officials, traditional activities, business dedications, ribbon cutting, and bingo anniversaries in my schedule," Fife said. "All of these things are important."

Fife said he will consider his first year a success if the attitude of people can be changed, so that the needs of citizens come first.

"First, I want to focus on what's best for tribal members. I've always been taught, and I believe it, that in a democracy, the government should do the greatest good for the greatest number of people."

Twin Hills reorganizes

continued from page 5

and the Creek Nation." The fact that the community became inactive does not mean the community ceased to exist, he explained.

The community's next regular meeting will be 7 p.m., May 25. Regular meetings will be held on the last Monday, before the last Saturday, of each month.

Twin Hills officers

Dorothy Meyer, chair
Gary Hudgens, vice-chair
Patsy Morgan, secretary
Lillian Crow, treasurer
Robert Alexander, sergeant-at-arms

Markers still unpreserved; advocate's death leaves dream unfulfilled

continued from page 1

A year earlier, General William McIntosh had signed a fatal, although unratified, document ceding Georgia and a portion of Alabama. McIntosh falsely claimed to represented all chiefs of the nation, with the exception of Tuckabatchee. The Creek Council (confederacy) determined McIntosh and his accomplices be sentenced to death.

Depite McIntosh's death, his following still thrived. The United States permitted followers of McIntosh to send out a party of five members, who selected bottom land near "Three Forks," the junction of the Arkansas, Grand and Verdigris rivers, close to Fort Gibson.

As promised in article 13 of the treaty, "The United States (agreed) to guarantee to the Creeks all the country not herein ceded, to which they have a just claim...."

But the evils of removal lingered.

Only two years later, Arkansas Cherokees encroached upon Creek land -- land they had cultivated painstakingly without farming tools -- land that had sacrificed the southeastern people to its unfamiliar climate -- pneumonia, malaria -- land that cradled the bones of their unburied babies, mothers and grandmothers.

In 1928 a treaty provided for the Arkansas' Cherokees removal west. Understandably, Creeks were irate over the Cherokees' invasion. But this new Mvskoke land was never patented nor surveyed, and the U.S. sold it to the Cherokees in 1928.

To remedy the situation, President Andrew Jackson appointed former North Carolina Governor Monfort Stokes chair of the Federal Indian Commission in 1932.

"They stated that they were far removed from Washington and found it difficult to adjust themselves to the newly arrived Cherokees and other Indian nations," according to The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XII. The newly created commission was responsible for supervising the settlement of the southeastern Indians, as well as recommending a plan of government for Indian Territory. Adjusting boundary lines between Mvskoke and Cherokee land was the commission's first effort.

On Feb. 14, 1833, a treaty establishing the boundary line was signed by the Creek and Cherokee nations. After treaty negotiations were complete, the commission appointed 1st Regiment U.S. Dragoons Captain Nathan Boone to survey the 38 mile boundary from the juncture of the North and South Canadian Rivers north by northeast to where the Verdigris River meets the Arkansas River. Boone's survey reports he began his survey by planting a "cedar post for the beginning corner from which a cottonwood 24 inches in diameter bears N 18, E 40 links distant and a cottonwood 15 inches in diameter bears S 9, E 14 links distant." Boone, the son of Daniel Boone, began his survey March 25 and completed it April 9, 1933. Boone marked the line by placing a mile marker and witness rocks.

"He set three rocks in a row, on the (boundary) line. The center rock was the marker rock, which would be the mile marker. The other two rocks were called witness rocks. They were to help find the marker rock if it got kicked over," said Creek citizen, the late Lee Woodard. Each witness rock was set a distance of 33 feet from the marker (mile) rock, said Woodard. The distance between the two witness rocks equalled 66 feet; this distance, a surveyors' term, was referred to as chain. Witness rocks engraved by Boone's survey crew are inscribed with "chen," a mispelling of chain.

As a young boy growing up in McIntosh County, Woodard often rode his horse past the numbered iron markers, unaware of their significance. "I didn't know what they were until many years later." After finding an old Muskogee area map that identified the survey line as that of Boone's survey, it soon became his passion. Up until his March 13 death, Woodard had spent years surveying the 38 mile strip with the aid of Boone's field notes. "I've been doing this for 15 years, off and on, just because I enjoy it," said Woodard, 66. He spent 15 years documenting the whereabouts of some of Boone's rock mile markers, though his main interest was in the permanent iron post markers that were set in the ground at some later, yet undetermined time.

Markers set from Boone's survey are well documented, but Woodard had not been able to determine when the iron markers replaced the mile marker rocks on the 38 mile stretch. Woodard said the Fort Gibson Museum has no record of the markers or Boone's survey. "Fort Gibson (Museum) has nothing on it what-so-ever. Fort Gibson doesn't have anything on Nathan Boone," he said.

According to Woodard's research, the hollow cast-iron markers were smelted in a Philadelphia foundary, then shipped to New Orleans, by schooner and sent to Fort Gibson by steamboat. Before his death, he was in search of a government purchase order for the posts, which he believed would indicate a date around which the markers were set. In his quest to see them historically recognized, he had accounted for all iron markers, but eight. Mile marker numbers one, three, five, 20, 24, 27, 28, and 29 are missing. Woodard believed number one never existed. "If there was ever a number one, it's in the Canadian River." He alleged marker three was stolen, and the rest, just missing. Five markers have been moved. Mile marker four is in the backyard of a private residence. Number five is at a Wagoner abstract office. Numbers 23 and 33 rest at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee. Marker 34 stands outside the Phoenix Village Apartments, Muskogee, just feet from its original spot. Twenty-five markers are in their original placements. Many are located in open fields, or within property lines, with barb wire fencing wrapped around them.

Others are are located on areas probably not much different to the topography indicated on Boone's maps in 1833. Areas such as these can only be reached on horse or by foot, Woodard said.

Woodard's research and records include photographs, locations, and names of landowners, on which markers set, as well as the status of each markers' physical condition. Some of the markers, vandalized and destroyed by the elements, are in need of repair.

His dream was to see the markers receive historic prominance. Woodard said he had been unsuccessful in attempts to get the state historical society to preserve and recognize the markers. "They are the oldest markers in the state of Oklahoma today and the Oklahoma Historical Society is not interested."

Editor's note: Woodard was a retired rancher and a Creek tribal member. He was born and raised northeast of Checotah. He was an amateur historian and the first vice-president of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. He also authored several published archaeological articles.

River washes away first boundary post marker

The eastern line, north of the Arkansas River, and northern segment of the Creek-Cherokee boundary was surveyed by Brevet Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves and Lieutenant I. C. Woodruff in the late spring of 1849.

As requested by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs L. Lea, Sitgreaves began at the north side of the Arkansas River and ran his line north 25 miles. By this time, Boone's marking posts and the river bank, a starting point for Sitgreaves survey, had been washed away by the river.

Sitgreaves wrote the only resort "was to measure a line as nearly as possible coincident with it, making offsets to it whenever known.....The result was to throw the extremity of this line of the north east corner of the Creek Country, 22 feet to the north of the old mark."

"From this point the boundary ... is a parallel of latitude as far as the 100th degree of longitude west from Greenwich and a meridian thence south to the Canadian River (south fork)."

The area the survey crew covered westward (north of the Arkansas to the North Canadian River) was marked by wooden posts "squared at one end, projecting six feet from the ground and surrounded by a mound of stones, or earth...."

The markers were placed every five miles, in open prairies, and more closely around settlements and streams. The distance marked was eighty miles, exclusive of the 1833 surveyed eastern boundary.

After the Bureau of Topographical Engineers assigned Sitgreaves to another job in April 1850, Woodruff was left to complete the Creek survey line. After being supplied with troops, horses, oxen and supplies, Woodruff began where Sitgreaves had left off; the exact location was 79 miles and 870 feet from the northeastern corner of Creek Country, and on the parallel of the thirty-eighth meridian, eight feet and 42 inches.

He was expected to survey the remainder of this parallel line to the one-hundredth meridian. Although Woodruff hadn't quite reached the ninety-ninth meridian before he looped southeast to take the return route to Fort Gibson.

The line survey was terminated Sept. 5, 1850 at the western end of the North Fork of the Canadian River. Although no post markers were set beyond that point, Woodruff continued to "chain all the way" to Fort Gibson. He believed there was no reason to complete the survey to the hundredth meridian.

He felt continuing the survey would be useless "unless continued with some other object, for instance the reconnaissance of the territory for a more perfect knowledge of its geography; or marking the point where the southern boundary cuts the hundredth (meridian)."

1833 treaty set boundaries for the Muscogee Nation

The boundaries as set by the Treaty with the Creeks, 1833 -- "Beginning at the mouth of the north fork of the Canadian River, and run northerly four miles -- thence running a straight line so as to meet a line drawn from the south bank of the Arkansas River opposite to the east or lower bank of Grand River, at its junction with the Arkansas, and which runs a course south, 44 deg. west, one mile, to a post placed in the ground -- thence along said line to the Arkansas, and up the same and the Verdigris river, to where the old territorial line crosses it -- thence along said line north to a point twenty-five miles from the Arkansas River where the old territorial line crosses the same -- thence running a line at right angles with the territorial line aforesaid, or west to the Mexico line -- thence along the said line southerly to the Canadian River or to the boundary of the Choctaw Country -- thence down said river to the place of beginning."

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 5 P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 May 1992, 12 Pages

Committee ready for 18th annual festival and rodeo

OKMULGEE -- Plans are being finalized for the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo June 19 through 21. The majority of events for the three-day festival will be held in Okmulgee.

Several new events, as well as policies, will greet thousands of festival-goers.

The festival opens Friday morning with the Little Olympics and continues through the evening with the men and womens' softball tournaments. The rodeo grand entry will begin at 6:45 p.m. at the rodeo arena, at the tribal omniplex, west of the intersection at U.S. Highway 75 and Loop 56, in Okmulgee. The festival concludes Sunday afternoon.

Added attractions to the annual tribal holiday are a bowling tournament, a five kilometer (3.1 miles) run, an inter-tribal powwow, and a Creek senior citizens honors program dedicated to Maskoke elders.

The 1992 festival is budgeted at approximately $53,000. Of that, more than $37,000 was appropriated from unexpended bingo revenues.

Donna Frank Anderson, secretary for the committee, said the festival budget was supplemented with $16,000 of funds carried over from last year's festival and revenue from tobacco sales at the Tulsa bingo facility.

Following is a list of event coordinators and event starting times:

-- Miss Creek Nation Pageant, June 13 at the Independent Agencies Building mound auditorium at the tribal capitol complex. Contact Pat Morgan at (918) 756-8700;

-- little olympics, Harmon Stadium, Okmulgee, 8:30 a.m., June 19. Contact Floyd Jones at (918) 758-0689;

-- all-Indian Rodeo, June 19 and 20, at the rodeo arena. Opening ceremonies begin at 6:45 p.m. Rodeo committee includes Robert Davis, Ken Childers, Bob Hardridge, and Valerie Harjo. Contact Hardridge at (918) 758-1134;

-- all-Indian men and womens' fast-pitch softball tournaments begin Friday, 6 p.m. at the omni-

please see **FESTIVAL...**, page 11

The appearance of Indian paintbrushes hail the return of spring. These flowers were photographed at Arbeka Ceremonial Ground.
photo by Jim Wolfe

Alexander Posey biography released

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Alexander Lawrence Posey believed the Tulledega Hills to be the most beautiful part of Creek Nation.

The land of his early childhood memories and earth of his family home once sit safely cradled between the north and main branches of the Canadian River. As an adult it gave him refuge.

In 1873, it was where he was given life.

And tragically, only 34 years later, its swollen flood waters also took his life.

Posey attended Creek national boarding school, Eufaula, until leaving to enroll in Bacone Indian University at age 16. By the time he left BIU, at age 21, he had attained local repute for his literary works. In 1894, he was elected to the Creek legislature as a Tuskegee Tribal Town representative to the House of Warriors. Throughout his twenties, he was appointed to serve as superintendent of the following institutions: the Creek Orphan Asylum, Okmulgee; public instruction for the Creek Nation; Eufaula Boarding School; and the national boarding school at Wetumka.

His 1902 purchase and subsequent one and one-half year editorship of the Indian Journal, Eufaula, was the birthplace of his biggest literary accomplishment -- the Fus Fixico letters.

''It was not like reading a newspaper, but like reading a series of one-liners,'' said author Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. of the newspaper's combination of journalism and humor. ''He qualifies as the greatest Native American humorist outside of Will Rogers,'' added Littlefield at an April lecture over his recently published book, *Alex Posey*.

''The (Fus Fixico) letters seem to have grown out of his aversion to writing extended political editorials,'' writes Littlefield in *Alex Posey*. With impending statehood, the dissolution of Creek Nation as an autonomous system, and the Creek principal chief election of 1903, ''...it was apparent to him that he must find an editorial voice,'' Littlefield writes.

Fus Fixico (heartless bird) was a ficitious full-blood Mvskoke ''... who wrote to the local editor concerning domestic affairs...'' Eventually, the activities of Chitto Harjo's ''Crazy Snake Clan,'' and a ''snake'' named Hotgun, became the central subject of the letters. ''His bemused observations on grafters, bureaucrats, and office seekers and his innocent, yet incisive questioning and analysis of political events, presented in the English dialect spoken by a full-blood, cut to the heart of matters and delighted his readers,'' Littlefield writes.

''Well,'' ''wrote'' Fixico, ''Chitto Harjo and his friend, was all come back from jail, and was had some councils in the woods already. I think maybe so if they

please see **POSEY...**, page 11

Letters to the Editor

Okemah reader offers thanks

Editor:

I would like to extend my appreciation to all churches, families, and friends for the beautiful, inspiring cards, and flowers, and most of all -- your prayers. Thank you for the the support you gave to me while I was in the hospital in Okemah and Ada. I would like to offer special thanks to Nancy Beaver, who was at my bedside throughout surgery, Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church, and Pastor Ray McGilbray. He and his family gave support to my family by staying with them. God certainly heard your prayers and he answered. My family will never forget all that you have done for us. I am recooperating very well, and I do appreciate you for your support and prayers. God Bless.

Rebecca Stroud, Okemah

Eufaula reader supports ceremonies

Editor:

Much has been written about the supposed ''old world origins'' of the American Indians and more has been talked about. I wish to discuss to Christian Indians the error of their beliefs and why I believe I am correct.

The American Indians, as they are called, are not pagans nor heathen, and were not, even before the white man ever stepped foot here.

The people worshipped Yah or Yahweh as the true name of the creator whom they acknowledged. There are stories of the Messiah coming to the land and that He was not ever crucified, nor was He resurrected. These are all lies and myths started by the Catholic church to hold power over everyone.

Our people were never to become Christians. Protestants are just as wrong; all (of) this (relates) back to the ''Old World Order'' called Babylon. Our ancestors were killed if they didn't become Christians. They were punished for speaking their language. Not six million, but sixty million of our people were exterminated as were that many buffalo and trillions of wildlife and plant life.

Our earth, our land, is truly ruined, but I can tell you this: those who still dance the stomp dances, as it is called, and sing all (of) the ancient songs will sing a new day and see the Messiah. It's not far away! Those who ruin the earth will be ruined. Praise Yahweh!

Lana Lewis, Eufaula

Kansas reader disagrees with bingo

Editor,

Recently, I read the article written by the second chief in the April issue of the Muscogee Nation News. I find it most difficult to understand why this person is so apathetic. First of all, ''Oklahoma'' means ''redman'' not ''land of the redman'' as she stated. She needs to get her terminology straight. Forget about changing the name and take (a course in) Oklahoma history. She speaks of something very trivial.

Secondly, we need to consider what contributions the Muscogee Nation is making to society, today! Let's take the smoke shops, for instance. The tribe takes a person's money for tobacco to contribute to poor health such as cancer or heart disease. Since the opportunity is there, our moral fiber has unraveled. How far will we go to make money? We may as well contribute to alcoholism and sell liquor. Is that (the tribe's) next step?

Another issue of concern in which I see among the Creek people is the contribution to gambling through bingo. I took notice that bingo halls are built better than most of our Creek churches. Isn't that a shame? At one time the majority of Creek people were Christians, what happened? Surely, there is a more legitimate means of revenue. What is wrong with good honest work? These ''get rich'' schemes for tribes and individuals allow gambling addictions to be on the rise. Let's try to be a positive influence, not a radical (influence). Learn to establish a good relationship and quit trying to ruin the reputation of the Muscogee Nation. Let's set a good example other tribes and try legitimate business pursuits.

In viewing all of this, we must consider our tribal seal and its meaning. It has Christian values in its meaning, but it seems the Creek people have put all of that aside. It is time to wake up and see where we are going.

Personally, I spent two years on a northern reservation serving in a church. Bingo, smoke shops, and casinos were common place. I must inform you that the economy did not improve nor did the unemployment diminish. Alcoholism increased because of depression over unemployment and misuse of personal income lost to bingo halls and casinos.

The rate of unemployment on that particular reservation was 82.3 percent while employment was less than 13 percent. I saw families go hungry and children cried at night, going to bed with nothing to eat. Our second chief is worried about a name change, what a farce!

Let's open our eyes for a brighter future. I ask you, who is this woman? I am Creek, speak and understand the language. I grew up among Creek people, but never heard of this person who calls herself our second chief. I hope she begins to seek the Lord's guidance. Remember: ''Blessed is the nation whose god is the Lord...'' (Psalms 33:12). Thank you. Sincerely,

Rev. Reuben A Kinney, Wichita, Kan.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sundays, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturdays, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 a.m.

The Muscogee Nation News takes second at journalism conference

GREEN BAY, Wis. -- The Muscogee Nation News placed second in the general excellence category for monthly publications, at the Native American Journalists Association print contest.

The MNN is the monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation produced by the tribal communications department.

Judging was done by the Wisconsin Press Association during the NAJA annual convention in Green Bay. Criteria for the general excellence award were scope of coverage, quality of news stories, editorials, use of photography, graphics and overall layout and design. Winning first place was Nativebeat, a Canadian publication.

''Speaking for the staff, we're very pleased to be recognized for excellence among Indian papers,'' said Jim Wolfe, editor of the MNN. ''I'm fortunate to work with a creative, talented staff and to have our efforts supported by the tribal administration and the National Council.''

The Muscogee Nation News staff includes associate editor Stephanie Berryhill and administrative assistant Anita Freeman. The monthly publication has a circulation of 8,100.

Tribal council approves industrial code

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council adopted an industrial development act at its April session at the tribal capitol complex.

The 31-member tribal legislature approved the code that will create a five-member board for oversight and administrative purposes. Authorization was also given for Principal Chief Bill Fife to incorporate the industrial development board through the tribe.

The bill is seen as an important first step for the tribe to begin developing business ventures and ultimately, a tribal economy.

How They Voted Page 12

In other business the Council:

-- approved a resolution that declares provisions of the Original Creek Treaty of 1901, abridging traditional religion, unconstitutional. The treaty is seen as a violation of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights. The resolution also calls for the U.S. Congress to enact legislation for reparations and to ensure religious continuity. Okmulgee District Representative Thomas Berryhill said previous Congressional acts have preserved the sanctity Creek churches but not of traditional religion;

-- authorized the principal chief to negotiate for a land purchase in Okmulgee county. The 2,750 acre tract is now owned by the First National Bank in Okmulgee;

-- authorized the executive branch to apply for federal and private foundation grants to supplement the fiscal year 1992 comprehensive budget;

-- appropriated $1,800 for the purchase of tribal flags to be displayed at community centers, veterans centers and other recognized tribal organizations;

-- appropriated $25,000 to supplement the tribal adult vocational training program;

-- approved the tribal priorities for the Bureau of Indian Affairs fiscal year 1994 budget for the tribe;

-- added public intoxication and the desecration of sacred sites, with penalties, to the tribal criminal code;

-- authorized the tribe's gaming operations board to enter a contract for the continuance of satellite bingo broadcasts from its Tulsa bingo hall. Principal Chief Bill Fife vetoed the bill citing some language that needed clarification; and

-- agreed to the principal chief's recommendation to suspend operations at the tribal dairy farm. The Council had earlier approved an agribusiness board. Fife said he did not want to burden the board with thousands of dollars of repairs before assuming responsibility for the tribal enterprise.

The Council will hold its next regular session May 30 at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee.

FUTURE HOME OF
CREEK NATION

Tribal and Muskogee area officials gather for a groundbreaking ceremony May 9 at the site of the Muskogee bingo hall.

photo by Judith Pickering

Tribal affairs

Crow appointed to state commission

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Shelly Crow has been appointed to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission by Governor David Walters.

Crow was nomintaed to the commission by state Senator Lewis Long. She received Senate confirmation May 12 and will serve a three-year term.

Crow takes the place of former Creek Chief Claude Cox. Cox has been serving as chair of the commission. Her term is for three years. Crow will represent the eastern Oklahoma tribes.

"I'm very pleased and flattered that this appointment has been made," Crow said. Her confirmation vote is set for May 27.

National Council seeks evaluator

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council governmental operations committee is seeking an external evaluator for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Bids for all proposals will be considered. The governmental operations committee will give preference in employment to qualified Indians, particularly members of the Creek Nation. Deadline for submitting proposals will be June 1, 1992. Mail applications and certificate degree of Indian blood to Muscogee Creek National Council, P.O. Box 158, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Tribe offers nursing scholarship

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will award the Louie Leflore-Grant Foreman Scholarship on behalf of the Five Civilized Tribes higher education programs.

The scholarship is offered on a rotating basis between the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole tribes. A one- time $650 scholarship will be awarded to a tribal member who completes the application and meet the following guidelines:

-- must be an enrolled member of one of the five tribes;

-- be eligible for the federal financial aid programs: Pell Grant, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, college work study, and or loans. Applicant must apply for financial aid and demonstrate financial need;

-- be majoring in nursing, pre-health professions, or health professions area. No other major considered;

-- reside in Oklahoma and live within the respective tribal service area at the time of application;

-- provide letter of acceptance into an accredited registered nurse or bachelor of science nursing program, a pre-health professions program, or health professions school such as University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma State University-College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa, or Southwestern State University School of Optometry; and

-- write an essay stating need for financial help, philosophy and professional goals.

Applications are available from the Muscogee *(Creek) Nation Higher Education Department, P.O.* Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. Applications must be postmarked by July 1.

Health service promotes prevention

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Injury Prevention committee will observe June as Creek Nation Seatbelt Awareness Month. Promotional material will be distributed and education of seatbelt usage will take place at each clinic, the hospital, and the tribal complex. A seatbelt display will be at Eufaula the first week, Sapulpa the second week, Okemah the third week and at the tribal complex the fourth week.

The committee will utilize Creek Nation facilities for the placement of bi-lingual buckle-up signs; at each main complex gate, Eufaula clinic, Sapulpa clinic, at the Creek Nation Community Hospital, and Okemah clinic.

The Lighthorse Administration, in conjunction with Indian Health Service, will conduct pre-sign surveys to determine base line complex seatbelt usage. Post-sign erection surveys will also be conducted to determine awareness and campaign effectiveness.

Prevention committee formed

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Injury Prevention Committee held its first meeting April 20, at the tribal capitol complex.

The following members attended: Chairman, Sally Foster, community health representative manager; Diane Reynolds, public health nurse, Eufaula health clinic; Sarah Kaler, nursing director, Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah; Mina Phillips, public health nurse, Sapulpa health clinic; and Barton Williams, tribal law enforcement.

The committee is scheduling monthly meetings. For more information contact Donna Frank at (918) 756-8572.

In brief

Election board reorganizing

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board is seeking a new office manager as well as developing new policies and procedures to ensure a more efficient operation.

An audit and review of the independent agency found that there were no accounting procedures for money received from filing fees and special services.

Included in the findings:

-- that the election office did not deposit some checks into an established account;

-- that petty cash funds had been used to purchase beer;

-- that no set prices for services had been established; and

-- that there was no comprehensive office policy.

''The first thing we need to do is hire an office manager, then set some goals to improve the office and to make it run efficiently,'' board member Jess Kelley said. ''It's going to be fair. The biggest problem in the past has been that insiders have (had) an advantage.''

Other board members are Phyllis Warrington, Sue Peak, Susanna Willits and Kenneth Moore. Tracy Lowe is the acting office manager.

Committee considers reduction

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) National Council judical comittee is considering a bill that would reduce the size of the tribe's legislative body.

Second Speaker Jerry Wilson, the bill's author, said the Council has grown to an almost unamanageable size and has become a drain on the tribal treasury.

The present Council has 31 members. That number could increase when the next tribal census is completed.

The tribal constitution calls for one representative from each district for every 1,000 citizens. Any change would require a constitutional amendment. Restricting the size of the Council requires a two-thirds affirmative vote from the Council and then two-thirds majority approval from tribal voters.

Wilson said he is encouraging all tribal citizens to make their thoughts known about the size of the Council to their representatives or to the Council offices at (918) 758-1416.

MNN radio adds Holdenville station

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee Nation News radio program is now being broadcast on KRAF 1370 am, Holdenville. The station markets itself as Oklahoma's ''farm giant'', reaching a potential 350,000 listeners. The show will air Saturdays at 3 p.m.

The Muscogee Nation News radio program is produced by the tribal communications department. The 15-minute public affairs program is broadcast on 13 stations weekly. Gerald Wofford produces the program. Stephanie Berryhill and Anita Freeman are the news anchors and Jim Wolfe is the host.

Hilas hiya speaks to health majors

TULSA -- Dave Lewis spoke to first-year students in a session entitled ''Alternative Approach to Health Care'' in a behavioral medicine course at Oklahoma State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine. During his talk, Lewis emphasized that religion is an important part of Indian medicine and that the Creator is involved in healing. He explained that

please see **BRIEFS...**, on page 11

Holdenville using lawmender to settle dispute

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

HOLDENVILLE -- Because of civil disputes and disorder within Holdenville Indian Community, Principal Chief Bill Fife recently petitioned the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Distict Court for the appointment of National Council second speaker as community lawmender.

District judge Patrick Moore issued the May 11 order granting Council second speaker Jerry Wilson charge of all property, assets and income of the community. All signature cards of the community's bank accounts have also been changed over to Wilson's name as well. Wilson's appointment requires he serve as receiver mediator. As lawmender, the first step in the reorganization process has been meeting with the community factions to discuss a written organizational development plan, Wilson said. The plan calls for a four phase process:

-- phase one consists of completion of a comprehensive review and update of the existing constitution with the end product being the adoption of proposed constitutional amendments and the election and installation of community officers;

-- phase two will consist primarily of developing community management systems, such as accounting, personnel, purchasing, and record keeping policies;

-- phase three will include assessing the social and economic needs of the community and formulating a community plan to address these needs;

-- phase four shall consist of the development of specific program plans and proposals to implement service, ecomomic, and employment for the local Indian community citizens. Wilson expects to have completed the first two phases within the next 90 days.

He said he is pleased with meeting results. ''The people are very warm. I feel like we've had positive meetings.''

Wilson, who has spent around 180 hours devising the plan, receives a $75 per diem, per meeting, as well reimbursement for community related expenses.

Okemah Indian Community elects new officers

by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

OKEMAH -- Five newly elected board of directors preside over the Okemah Indian Community as a result of a special election ordered by Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Judge Patrick Moore.

The May 4 order resolved a lawsuit between community factions consisting of plaintiffs Betsy Tiger and Jimmie Johnson and the defendants, former OIC board of directors.

Elected to office May 18 were: Tom Yahola, chair; March Wind, vice-chair; Nancy Duncan, secretary; Inda McGertt, treasurer; and Betty Scott, board member.

Judge Moore also ordered the directors, upon being elected, draw numbers to determine terms of office. Yahola and McGertt drew terms which expire Nov. 1993. Wind, Duncan, and Scott drew terms which expire Nov. 1994.

The order had also reinstated Tiger as a board of director member at large from the May 4 order date to the May 18 election.

Defendants Wilman Berryhill, Cainey Roberts Jr., McGertt, Rebecca Stroud, and smokeshop manager Tony Martin had been ordered to turn the community's books and records over to a certified public accountant for audit. Moore ordered a completed audit be submitted to the court also.

Moore decreed that a central repository for all books and records of the community be established and open for inspection by any OIC member during business hours. In applying the community consitution's nepotism rule, Moore gave Stroud and her son, Martin, the option of offering one or the other's resignation by May 9. Stroud resigned from her position as community treasurer May 5.

Court to hear petition on Hayes appointment

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation district Court will hear a petition to clarify language regarding a supreme court appointment.

Okmulgee District Representative George Almerigi will have his petition heard May 28, in tribal district court at the capitol complex in Okmulgee.

Almerigi contends that the National Council resolution placing Jim Hayes, a Checotah attorney nominated by Principal Chief Bill Fife, on the tribal Supreme Court is unconstitutional.

Specifically, Almerigi wrote in his petition that NCR 92-19 contains inconsistences with Article VII, Section 2 of the tribal Constitution. Those inconsistencies are:

-- the resolution provides for the appointment to be for the remaining term of Justice Clarence Douglas. The Constitution does not provide for completing individual terms;

-- the appointment for five year term is inconsistent with the six-year term beginning July 1 as required by the Constitution; and

-- that the resolution does not provide a beginning date for Hayes' term.

Creek housing authority to have poster contest

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Housing Authority is sponsoring a poster contest with a fire safety theme.

The contest is limited to children that are attending or will be attending kindergarten through the eighth grade, residing in a mutual help home, or in a CNHA rental project.

All entries will be judged on the presentation of a fire safety message. Illustrations should incorporate a fire and safety theme as well as Indian or Alaska native theme.

Judges for the contest will be the CNHA Board of Commissioners. In addition to the first prize, the winners work will be submitted to the regional constest and if successful there, it will be submitted to the National Amerind Risk Management Corporation for competition during its yearly convention.

The national contest winner will be awarded a savings bond and an expense paid trip, including parents, to Orlando, Fla. for the safety convention in November.

The local winner last year was Judd Pickering of Eufaula. Pickering is the son of National Council Representative Thomas and Judith Pickering. Other local winners were Zach Tiger and Jason Smith.

Entry forms can be obtained from the housing authority's office at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee or by contacting Bert Robison, CNHA personnel director, at (918) 756-8504.

Deadline for entries is 4:30 p.m. June 19. Children related to CNHA employees are ineligible.

Executive office clarifies tribal application process

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation personnel office has established procedures for applicants seeking employment with the tribe. The following is a list that should ease and clarify the application process.

Obtaining employment application:

-- pick up application in personnel services, between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee;

-- request by telephone for application to be mailed. Be certain to give current address. Call (918) 756-8700 ext. 388 or 389;

-- request application by mail. Write to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Personnel Services, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447;

The following documentation must be submitted with application:

-- copy of CDIB (Certificate of degree of Indian blood);

-- copy of Oklahoma drivers license if position requires driving tribal vehicle; and

-- copy of licenses/certifications (electrical, plumbers, etc.) if applying for a position that requires licensing.

All applications and resumes are to be processed through personnel services.

Applications remain on file in personnel services for a period of two years (six months - active file, eighteen months - inactive file).

When applying for vacant positions:

-- submit completed application to personnel services;

-- if application is on file, request by phone, mail, or in person, that your application be submitted for a vacant position. You must request your application be submitted for each advertised position; and

-- vacancies are generally filled within ten working days after closing date. Only those applicants interviewed will be notified of selection.

Methods of advertising:

-- in-house. All Creek Nation facilities receive job announcements. This includes, head start centers, health centers, community centers, Eufaula Dormitory, National Council office, and, upon request, to Council representatives;

-- newspaper. The department in which the vacancy occurs may request the position be advertised in the newspaper.

The newspapers that are most utilized for advertisement are Okmulgee Daily Times, Muskogee Phoenix and Tulsa World, Sunday editions.

Perry Anderson is the acting personnel director for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Second Chief reflects on graduation

by Shelly Crow, Second Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Springtme is the season of rebirth and beauty upon the earth. How fitting that the time of graduation comes in conjunction with the budding of trees and blossoming of flowers.

It is that time of year to extend congratulations to all graduates of all ages. As second chief, it has been a privilege to speak at or attend different graduation ceremonies throughout the Creek Nation.

One of Webster's definitions of graduate is to change gradually or by degrees.

This definition reflects the age groups that I have observed. The tribal headstart programs' graduations are such an example of how the future of the tribe is being established through the teachers and families of these children. No one achieves any degree of excellence alone. Family support is vital.

Graduation at any level marks the closing of one stage of your life and the opening of a new phase filled with promise. Each of us should learn to embark upon each new day with confidence and optimism, remembering that the desire to achieve adds the extra spark necessary to fuel the fires of determination and success.

When a child is born, we hope that we can be good parents. There are no instructions with an infant, except what has been handed down from generation to generation. The Creator provided us with natural instincts that we can adapt to our parenting skills. You really learn to appreciate those that have experienced parenting and hope, with guidance from our elders, (that) we can profit from their knowledge.

Education is one of this administration's primary concerns. With the involvement of the tribe in the Johnson O'Malley programs and possibly, the ''Growing Healthy Program,'' we can look forward to a healthier, educated Indian youth of the Muscogee Nation. We realize that the children of today are our hope for tomorrow.

As the parent of a senior, I would like to congratulate my daughter. Congratulations Leslie and congratulations to all our graduates, this year and year's past.

OSU Okmulgee offers new career opportunities for self motivated people

OKMULGEE -- Students participating in the Jewelry Technology and Watch and Micro-instrumentation Program at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee are learning skills developed about 5,000 years ago by some of the world's first technicians.

Students are fashioning gold and other precious metals into fine jewelry. They are also learning to set diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and other gemstones.

''Jewelry manufacturing first became a skill in ancient Egypt in the time of the pharaohs. Then, jewelers were among the most respected of all artists,'' one student explained. ''Jewelry they designed was worn by kings and queens to show power and wealth.''

The student continued, ''I've always enjoyed looking at, touching and wearing jewelry. But it never occurred to me to consider jewelry as a career until a counselor form OSU-Okmuglee visited our high school and described the college's jewelry technology program ... Jewelry manufacturing is not a profession you hear about every day. In my mind, I pictured jewelers selling rings and necklaces, sizing rings, and occasionally resetting a stone. I hadn't realized that many jewelers make much of the jewelry they sell. Nor was I aware of the technical processes required -- molds that have to be made, the precise casting, and the skill involved in stone setting.''

One student said, ''At first, my parents and friends tried to talk me out of becoming a jeweler, but after my parents and I visited the college, talked with the faculty and department head, and met some of the students, there was no more doubt.''

''When speaking of the jewelry design, manufacturing, and repair industry, please add the word technology,'' Dorman Walton, supervisor of the jewelry technology program at OSU-Okmulgee urges. ''While the public labels jewelers as artists, those of us in the industry refer to ourselves as technologists. The public only sees the jewelry when it's completed and on display in glass cases. What they don't see are our furnaces, specialized tools, molds, the vacuum and centrifugal casting equipment, stone polishers, and other technical equipment. Nor does the consumer consider the skills jewelers must master in metallurgy, ceramics, and physics just to practice the craft.''

Walton says he understands why the public doesn't recognize the technical expertise required in the jewelry profession.

''Jewelers by and large have been very secretive about our industry. Our trade shows are not open to the public. There's just not much opportunity for the public to learn what we do. Most likely, we have created our own image problem,'' he said.

But regardless of the image, Walton insists that careers in either jewelry technology or watch and micro-instruction repair, other OSU-Okmulgee technical programs, hold greater potential than nearly any other type of small business occupation.

''The average income for a beginning jeweler or watch repair technician is quite good. Working conditions are safe and comfortable. And I receive several calls from employers each week asking to interview or hire graduates--far more requests than we have students graduating.''

Nationwide, the watch and jewelry industry has voiced concern since its own manpower studies reveal a large percentage of skilled technicians are nearing retirement age. ''This shortage of skilled jewelers and watchmakers continues to drive up salaries,'' Walton says. And only a handful of schools in the United States teach jewelry or watch and micro-instrument technology.

What type of student enrolls in jewelry or watch

please see CAREER..., page 12

Communities planning for Festival, honoring graduates

compiled by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Wetumka

-- The Wetumka Indian Community elders have been active with quilting, selling raffle tickets, and bake sales.

At noon, June 18 the elders will raffle off a quilt. Chances are $1 and may be purchased from community elders. The quilt is currently on display at the center. The elders hold a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at the community center. Proceeds from the raffle and bake sales will go towards repair and improvement of the community's van.

-- Among the community's graduating high school seniors are: Shannon Canard, daughter of Bruce and Mary Jones; Jeremy Fish, son of Leo and Diane Moppin; Tony Fish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fish; Tracey Grider, daughter of Jack and Connie Grider; Stephen Harjo, son of Harry and Mahaley Harjo; Mark Underwood, son of Charles and Julia Underwood; and Bernadette Whitetree, daughter of Chester and Virginia Whitetree.

-- Winners of the community's coed volleyball tournament were: Easy Rider, Wewoka; No Limit, Okmulgee; and Wetumka Indian Community.

-- Creek Nation Housing Authority Executive Director Joe Jackson, along with other employees, recently spoke to the community about its comprehensive grant program. Around 45 community members were in attendance.

Creek Nation Community Health Representative supervisor Sally Foster will speak at the community's next regular meeting 7 p.m., June 1.

-- Around 36 children attended the community's monthly birthday social for children. The social is held at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. Birthday social organizer is DeAnn Yargee.

-- Community members attending Creek Nation Social Services recent elders abuse seminar were Frances Hicks, Marcella Lowe and elders Buster and Virginia Barnett and Sam Mitchell.

-- Winners of the community elders Easter egg hunt prize eggs were: Josephine Wind, first; Edward Scott, second; and Wind, third. Around 40 elders attended the hunt and dinner.

Hanna

-- Hanna Indian Community is holding a slow pitch softball mens' tournament 9 a.m., June 6 and 7.

The community will be limiting the tournment to 10 to 12 teams with a 12-man roster. The $85 entry fee is due June 3. First place winners will receive jackets, second place winners will receive t-shirts and third place will receive a team trophy. Most valuable player will receive a trophy.

-- Community member Phillip Harjo is coaching its little olympics team. May 22 is the deadline for interested children, ages six through 15, to participate. Girls' practice is held from 4 to 6 p.m., on Mondays and Tuesdays. Boys' practice is held from 4 to 6 p.m., on Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call the center at 657-2424.

-- The community and Hanna High School seniors recently held a mens' slow pitch tournament. The proceeds went toward the youths' senior trip. Winners of the tournament were: first, Jumbo Hicks, Okmulgee; second, Ricky Britt, Dewar; and third, Charles Deere, Eufaula.

A weiner roast was also recently held for the seniors.

Dewar

-- At 11 a.m., May 28 Dewar Indian Community is holding memorial service for its deceased members. Following a song service and prayer, lunch will be served. Community members may bring Indian dishes to the dinner. All community members are invited to attend.

-- The community Father's Day dinner will be held at noon, June 18.

-- The community recently purchased a 15 passenger van, said Eliza Mae Hicks, community secretary.

Koweta

-- Koweta Indian Community recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony and dinner to dedicate its new jogging trail. Principal Chief Bill Fife and Second Chief Shelly Crow were among those in attendance.

-- Charlie Coker, Creek, is teaching patchwork classes at the center from 7 to 9 p.m., each Thursday night. Classes cost $5 for members and $25 for nonmembers.

-- Mvskoke hymn singing classes are held at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night.

Okmulgee

-- Okmulgee Indian Community is preparing its youth for the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival Little Olympics.

Coaching the youth are David Proctor and Sidney Long. For information regarding the community's participation, call Proctor or Long at 756-8621 or 756-5627.

-- The community recently honored its Okmulgee High School Creek seniors with a dinner and program. Special guest speaker was 1964 Olympic gold medal winner Billy Mills.

-- Winning the community's Mother's Day awards was Lizzie Porter, 81, for being the eldest mother present as well as for being the mother with the most children. Angela Clark, 23, was awarded for being the youngest mother present.

-- Mary Ann Kane, Matt Tiger, Charlie Coker, and Lizzie Porter were the winners of the community's four $25 drawings.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Indian paint brushes dot the landscape at Arbeka ceremonial ground.

Beggs

-- Beggs High School Creek Senior Michael Lee is the recipient of the Beggs Indian Community scholarship.

Community chair Mary Barnes recently awarded Lee the scholarship at a Beggs High School awards ceremony.

Checotah

-- Checotah Indian Community is holding a contest to name and design a logo for its recently purchased building. The contest is open to individuals of all ages. Entries may be dropped off at the community smokeshop no later than June 8. The winner will be a awarded a $50 cash prize.

-- The community recently awarded two $500 scholarships to Checotah High School Creek seniors Brent Spaulding and Rhonda Park.

– The community has changed its regular meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Glenpool

-- The Glenpool Creek Indian Community is holding a flea market from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., May 29 through 30 in conjunction with the City of Glenpool's Black Gold Days.

The outdoor boothspace may be rented for $10. The community will be providing concessions.

For more information, call the smokeshop at 291-6889.

Okfuskee

-- Okfuskee Indian Community is holding a volleyball tournament June 6.

The $30 entry fee is due June 3. First and second place winners will be awarded t-shirts. At 1 p.m. a spiking contest will be held in conjunction with the tournament. The contest cost is $3 and may be paid upon arrival. Spiker may pick own setter. For more information, call Annie Hicks at 623-1963 or Sharon Hicks at 623-0555.

-- Public health nurse Mary Washington recently gave cardio pulmonary resucitation classes to

plese see COMMUNITIES ...., page 7

Communities ready for many summertime activities

continued from page 6

community members. Members receiving certificates for successfully completing the class were Annie Hicks, Rita Tiger, Lorena Walters, Allison Arkeketa, Angie West, Sharon Hicks, Isaac Walters, Simmer Hicks, and Curtis Harjo.

-- The community would like to thank all members who helped cleanup the community grounds during community cleanup day.

-- Coaching the community's little olympics team are Irene and Faron Culley.

-- Hvtke Fields, Creek Nation Children and Family Services manager, recently spoke at the community's regular meeting.

Yardeka

– Yardeka Indian Community is holding Mvskoke language classes every Tuesday night beginning at 7:30 p.m. The class teacher is John Riley.

-- Community chair Vincent Williams said it will nominate and vote members to its games and recreational committee at its next regular meeting 7 p.m., May 31.

-- The community would like to express their appreciation to Bob Arrington, tribal natural resources, for the donation of a fence that has been erected on its property front.

Wilson

-- Wilson Indian Community recently held its yearly election of officers.

Those elected were: Harvey Gilroy, chair; George Almerigi, vice- chair; Bertha Taylor, secretary; and Georgia Harjo, treasurer. Elected to the smokeshop board were: Harvey Gilroy, chair; Richard Larney, vice-chair; Georgia Harjo, treasurer; Phyllis Berryhill, secretary and Pauline Billy, member.

Sapulpa

-- Low impact aerobics, country and western dance, and Yuchi language classes are among activities available each week to Sapulpa Indian Community members.

-- Low impact aerobics are held at the community office from 6 to 7 p.m., each Thursday. Opal Harjo is the class instructor.

-- Following aerobics class, country and western dance classes are taught by Carla Main. The classes are held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., each Thursday.

-- Yuchi language classes are held from 7:30 to 9 p.m., each Tuesday. Classes are taught by Maggie Marsey. The community is still seeking a Mvskoke language teacher. The individual must be a fluent speaker, reader, and writer of the language. For more information, regarding the position, call 227-3234.

All classes are held at the community office, located at 1030 E. Taft, Suite 110 in the Creek Hills Mall.

Weleetka

-- Weleetka Indian Community recently held a banquet for its graduating seniors at the Holiday Inn, Henryetta.

Principal Chief Bill Fife spoke to the attending Creek seniors.

Kellyville

-- Kellyville Indian Community is holding an Indian food dinner beginning at 11 a.m., June 6. The all-you-can-eat dinner costs $4.50 for adults and $2 for children.

The center is located two miles north of Kellyville on U.S. Highway 66, in the old Silverdollar Ballroom.

-- Judy Longhorn, Creek Nation Social Services, spoke to the community over childcare at its regular meeting.

Winners of doorprizes given away during its regular meeting were Bill Harris and Otis Dunn. Patrick Brown was the winner of a blanket raffled off during the meeting.

Tulsa

-- Tulsa Creek Indian Community members are busy planning for the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival.

The community is sponsoring a concession booth at the festival. Those interested in volunteering may contact the office, at 832-7062, for festival planning meeting dates and assignments.

Tulsa-area Creek youth, ages six through 15, who are interested in participating in the Creek Nation Festival Little Olympics may also call the office to register.

Muscogee churches to host singings and revival services

Hickory Ground gospel singing

YARDEKA -- Hickory Ground Number Two is hosting a gospel singing at 7 p.m., June 20. The event's emcee will be Berryhill's Quartet. The church is located south of Henryetta and south of Salem.

Thewahle hymn singing

DUSTIN -- Thewahle Baptist Church is hosting an all Indian hymn singing July 4, from 7 to 11 p.m. All churches are encouraged to attend, as they will be called upon to lead some Mvskoke hymns. Other tribes are also invited to sing their tribal hymns. Concessions will be available. The church is located two and one-half miles northeast of Dustin.

Snake Creek Gospel singing

BIXBY -- Snake Creek Baptist Church Number One is holding a gospel singing beginning at 7:30 p.m., June 27.

From Beeline Grocery Store, 221st and U.S. Highway 75, drive seven and one-half miles east to dead end road, turn left and follow the road to the church. From Bixby, drive south on Memorial, pass Allen Ranch on 196th St. Continue south for one-half mile to 201st, turn left, drive east one mile and then turn right and drive one and one-half mile to church turn off. From highway 16, turn north on Memorial, drive seven miles, turn right on gravel road and follow signs to church.

Yardeka sets revival dates

YARDEKA -- Yardeka Baptist Church is holding a revival may 27 through 31. Services begin at 7:22 p.m., nightly and 10:30 a.m., May 31.The special speaker will be Rev. Richmond Carr.

The church is located one-fourth mile south and one-fourth mile east of Salem Baptist Church, adjacent to the Muscogee- Seminole-Witchita Assembly Grounds.

Grave Creek sets revival dates

HITCHITA -- Grave Creek Baptist Church is holding a revival June 29 through July 4 with the evangelist Christopher Harjo preaching. Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Wetumka Baptist to host singing

WETUMKA -- Wetumka Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing beginning at 7:30 p.m., May 24. The singing's featured group is New Horizon, Hugo. The event's emcee will be Eastman Factor. Those attending should bring lawn chairs for the outdoor event. Concessions will be provided.

The church is located one mile south of Wetumka and one-half mile east of U.S. Highway 75.

Honey Creek has successful social

HONEY CREEK – Honey Creek Methodist Church offered prizes in several age catagories during its Easter egg hunt.

Winning prizes eggs in the baby, children, and adult categories were: Adrian Woodfield; Drew Thomas; and Randy Thomas. Those finding the most eggs in the baby, children, and adult categories were: Jennifer Kilian, Morgan Sunny, and Mary Sunny.

Okmulgee First to hold Bible school

OKMULGEE -- Okmulgee First Indian Baptist will be holding vacation bible school May 25 through 29. Classes are open to individuals of all ages from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. nightly. For local transportation call 756-9495. The church is located at 320 N. Mission.

Nuyaka hosts benefit singing

OKEMAH -- Nuyaka Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing June 6, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The singing's emcee will be Eastman Factor.

The church is located two miles east of Okemah on highway 62, seven miles north on highway 56, and four and one-half miles east.

Springfield to host gospel singing

OKEMAH -- Springfield Methodist Church is holding a benefit gospel singing 7 p.m., May 30 at the Okemah Indian Community center.

The singing's emcee will be Berryhill's Quartet. The community center is located two blocks south of Interstate 40 on Highway 27.

Creeks celebrate birthdays

Barnett celebrates third birthday

PENDLETON, Ore. -- Nathan Brice Barnett recently celebrated his third birthday.

Nathan Barnett

Barnett turned three-years-old April 12. He is the son of Carmen Chalakee, Wilson Community, and Acee Barnett, Okmulgee. He is the maternal grandson of Barbara Guerrero, Pendleton, Ore. and Bunky Chalakee, Wilson Community. Paternal grandparents are Dan and Jenny Barnett, Eufaula. Great-grandparents are the late Webster and Martha Chalakee and the late Uriah and Anita Alexander.

Chalakee birth announcemnet

PENDLETON, Ore. -- Shaylend Kristina Chalakee was born Jan. 19, 1992 to Carmen Chalakee.

Shaylend Chalakee

Chalakee weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 and one half inches long. She is the maternal grandaughter of Barbara Guerrero, Pendleton, Ore. and Bunky Chalakee, Wilson Community.

Her great-grandparents are the late Webster and Martha Chalakee and the late Uriah and Anita Alexander.

George birth announcement

PENDLETON, Ore. -- On March 15, 1992 Marqus Jordan George was born to Carmelita Chalakee and Michael George.

Marqus George

The baby weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces at birth.

His maternal grandparents are Barbara Guerrero, Pendleton, Ore. and Bunky Chalakee, Wilson Community. Great-grandparents are the late Webster and Martha Chalakee and the late Uriah and Anita Alexander. The paternal grandmother is Irene Thompson, White Swan, Wash.

Lewis crowned Little Mr. Easter

EUFAULA -- Andrew Jeremiah Lewis, 9 month old son of Michael and Mary Lewis of Eufaula, was crowned Little Mr. Easter in the Eufaula B & PW Club Easter Pageant. The pageant was held April 19 at the Eufaula Community Center. Lewis is the grandson Stella Timothy and Jack Feeling both of Eufaula and Barbara Lena of Wewoka and Jeremiah Lewis of Eufaula. Lewis is the great grandson of Dean Deere of Claremore.

Andrew Lewis

Lewis and his parents thank everyone who supported him. Mvto.

Sherri and Janice Eberle

ROY, Utah -- Jim Palmer Noon of Cromwell, is the great-grandfather of the girls Sherri Ann Eberle, 11 years old, 6th grade, and Janice Marie Eberle, 10 years old, 4th grade. Both attend Roy Elementary School Roy, Utah.

Sherri and Janice Eberle

Their parents are Guyetta Susie Noon of Oceanside, Calif., and Raymond Eberle of Bellview, Ohio. The girls reside with their grandparents Amos and Josephine Noon.

Haney observes birthday

GLENPOOL -- A birthday party with ice cream and cake was held on February 26, 1992 for HinHan-Ska Hoksila (White Owl Boy) Haney at the home of his grandmother. Haney is 5-years old. Twelve children were in attendance.

HinHan-Ska Hoksila

Haney is Seminole/Lakota/Yuchi/Choctaw. His parents are Michael and Cheri Haney. Maternal grandparents are: Pauline Haney and the late Charles Sherrell. Maternal great-grandparents are Elizabeth Tecumseh James and the late J.P. James of Tulsa. Paternal grandparents are Norman P. Haney Sr. and Evelyn Brave Haney of McLoud.

Mvskoke graduates

Elise Berryhill Paapke

ANCHORAGE – Elise Berryhill Paapke graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage with a master of science in counseling psychology May 3.

Elise Paapke

Paapke maintained a 3.8 grade point average throughout her graduate studies and has recently applied for admission to the University of Oklahoma PhD Program in Counseling Psychology.

Her master's thesis is "Comparison of Values Among Alaska Native Alcoholics and Counselors in Inpatient Alcoholism Treatment Programs." To complete her thesis, Paapke developed an acculturation scale for Alaska natives.

She received her bachelor of arts in psychology from UAA in 1989. In 1990 she was selected as Who's Who Among College Students. From 1988-90 she was on the UAA and National Dean's List.

She is a member of the Alaska Psychological Association, the American Psychological Association, and UAA Psychology Graduate Students Organization.

Among projects she has been involved in: the National Institute of of Mental Health's Case Management Aid Training Project, as a research assistant, Paapke researched and assembled training material utilized in training severely mentally ill individuals to be case management aids; Alaska Psychiatric Institute, UAA Mental Health Services Training Center Alaska Native Student Internship Project, as an intern, she visited with severely mentally ill Alaska native patients to develop daily living, social, and interpersonal relationship skills; and the Natural Helper Evaluation Project, UAA MHSTC, she assisted in the development of evaluation of criteria to access the effectiveness of natural helper projects in Alaska Native rural communities that were funded by the state.

Among internships she has served: Alaska Native Medical Center Area Office of Psychology; UA Psychological Services Center; Alaska Psychiatric Institute; and the Anchorage Center for Family.

Paapke is currently employed as the Southcentral Foundation Native Adolescent Chemical Dependency Aftercare Program's child and adolescent counselor II.

She is the daughter of JoAnn Skaggs, Lawrence Kan. and Michael and Julia Berryhill, Henryetta. Her paternal grandparents are Rev. Thomas and the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill, Wilson Community.

Maternal grandparents are the late Drennon and Maybell Hawkins Skaggs. Her great-aunt is Pauline Pakoska Billy, Schulter.

Leslie Crow

TULSA -- Leslie Crow graduated recently from Berryhill High School. She was a member of the National and Oklahoma Honor Societies, superintendent's honor roll, all-American scholar, and Who's-who Among American High School Students.

Leslie Crow

She received awards from the United States Mathematics Association, Presidential Academic Fitness, typing, algebra. Crow was December Very Important Person for Berryhill High School, prom queen, a contestant in the Miss Berryhill contest, and wrestling homecoming senior attendant.

Her activities included student council reporter and Mu Alpha Theta vice-president. She has accepted scholarships for academics and engineering from the University of Tulsa. Crow will major in chemical engineering.

She is the daughter of John and Shelly Crow of Tulsa. Her grandparents are Jim and Doretha Vincent and Ida Crow, all of Tulsa. Her great-grandparents are Joe and Gretchen Beaver of Tuscon, Ariz.

Students excel in art, spelling, and academics

Andrea Smith

Shanna Rae Jones

Erica Lowe

Amber Casey

Tulsan receives performance award

TULSA -- Andrea Smith was presented a scholarship award from the American Indian Art Association for outstanding recognition in the performing arts. This was presented to her at the Tulsa Indian Art Festival during education day, April 3. Andrea is a freshman at Edmond Central Mid High, Edmond. She is a member of Project E.A.G.L.E., Oklahoma Youth Symphony, National Honor Society, and has performed the flute at Red Earth for the artist presentation. John and Grace Smith are her parents. Her grandparents are Harmon and Anna Lee Wiley of Miami.

Creek youth wins spelling bee

BROKEN BOW -- Shanna Rae Jones, Creek-Choctaw, a fourth-grade student at Bennett Elementary School in Broken Bow, recently competed in the school spelling bee and was the school champion of the pee-wee division. The contest is sponsored by the Daily Oklahoman and students from all over the state compete on local and area levels. Jones received a medal for being the grade champion and a plaque for being the Pee-Wee Division Champion.

She is the 10-year-old daughter of Marcella and Billy Ray Jones of Broken Bow. Maternal grandmother is Lucille Bear of Henryetta. Paternal grandmother is Martha Jones of Broken Bow.

Lowe wins student of month award

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Creek student Erica Lowe was named student of the month at Heronville Elementary School in Oklahoma City. She recently received a medal from the Indian Education Program for academics and good citizenship. Lowe is six years old and in kindergarten. Her parents are Frank and Karon Lowe. Her grandparents are Rev. John and Eliza Lowe. Her hobbies include riding bikes, skating, and playing with friends. Lowe says her favorite foods are wild onions and salt meat.

Casey makes principal's honor roll

PRESTON -- Amber Casey, the daughter of Carol and Phil Casey, has been named to the principal's honor roll at Preston High School. Casey has attained a 3.84 grade point average.

She has been listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. Casey recently competed in the East Central Scholastic Meet at Ada and she placed seventh in geography. Casey ranks at the top of the ninth grade class. Her grandparents are, Salina Davis of Okmulgee, and Arvin and Melva Casey of Okemah.

Zackery ranks in academic meet

WELEETKA -- Creek fourth grader Stanley Zackery Jr. is one of six Spence Memorial academic team members who recently ranked first in the nation in the second round of the national semi- finals of the All Star Academic Competition.

The team will be competing against teams from Georgia, Tennessee, and Illinois in the ''Final Four,'' to be held in Lexington, Ky. this month.

Zackery is one of the team's top four members who, along with team coach Linda Reddick, will attend with all expenses paid by the competition sponsor.

Stanley Zackery

He is the son of Stanley and Kathy Zackery, Weleetka. His maternal grandmother is Myrtle Fraser, Weleetka and his paternal grandmother is Druella Zackery, Clearview.

Buckley receives academic honors

ANNAPOLIS -- The United States Achievement Academy announced that Huey Buckley has been named a United States National Award winner. Huey received awards for mathematics and honor roll. Huey will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, published nationally.

Huey is the son of Linda Buckley of Hanna. His grandparents are Rachell and Hailey Proctor.

Kahbeah places in state meet

OKMULGEE -- Kenneth Kahbeah of Okmulgee, ranked fourth in the state of Oklahoma in information management during the 1992 Phi Beta Lamba State Leadership Conference on February 21 through 23.

Universities and vo-tech schools from across Oklahoma competed in the state leadership conference held at the Hilton Inn West in Oklahoma City. Kahbeah attends Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech, in Shawnee where he is enrolled in applied computer accounting and data information processing.

Individual competition winners included Kahbeah AM Chapter vice-president, with a fourth place finish in information management. Kabeah, Creek, is the son of Priscilla and Lawrence Kahbeah of Okmulgee.

Screechowl wins photography award

SAPULPA -- Travis Screechowl received first place in nine categories and best of class in three categories in Photography at the 1992 Creek County Home Environment Show.

His photo of Wind Point Lighthouse in Racine, Wis., received first place and best of class honors in the best individual photo category, his outstanding photo series of nature and landscape received first place and best of class, and his telling a story photo series received first place and best of class.

Screechowl also placed first in the outstanding photo series of people, the photo series of people doing something, and the photo series of different subjects. His photo-news story also received a blue ribbon and two photographs of lighthouses on Lake Michigan received blue ribbons in best individual photo categories.

Screechowl is the son of Ed and Janice Screechowl of Sapulpa.

Harjo receives honorary degree

ATCHISON, Kan. -- Joy Harjo, Creek poet and writer, recently received a doctor of humane letters honorary degree from Benedictine College, Atchison, Kan.

A native of Tulsa, Harjo graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 1968. She graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1976. She received her master's degree in creative writing from the Iowa Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa in 1978.

Harjo has published four books of poetry, including ''She Had Some Horses'' and ''In Mad Love and War.'' She is currently a professor in the creative writing program at the University of New Mexico.

Joy Harjo

She has received the Josephine Miles Award for Excellance in Literature from PEN Oakland, the 1991 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America, the American Book Award, and the 1990 American Indian Distinguished Achievement Award.

The 1992 edition of ''Loomings,'' a magazine of the arts published by Benedictine's English Department, has been dedicated to Harjo.

Chalakee celebrates birthday

PENDLETON, Ore. -- Carmelita Chalakee recently celebrated her birthday in Pendleton, Ore. She was born April 18, 1968. She is the daughter of Barbara Guerrero, Pendleton, Ore. and Bunky Chalakee, Wilson Community. Her maternal grandparents are the late Uriah and Anita Alexander. Paternal grandparents are the late Webster and Martha Chalakee.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

WILLIE COOPER

TULSA -- Willie Cooper, 73, of Tulsa, died March 31, 1992.

He was born May 20, 1918 in Okfuskee County. Funeral services were held at Buckeye Baptist Church, April 4. The Revs. Banson Hicks and Boots Fixico officiated.

Cooper was preceded in death by his mother, Leah Butcher and a brother, Joe Cooper.

Survivors include: three sons, Jackie and Kenneth of Castle, and Billy Cooper of Tulsa; two daughters, Geneva Coker and Lena Mae Billie, both of Tulsa; one brother, Sam Cooper; one sister, Leah Billie.

Pallbearers were Billy Cooper Jr., Nathan Cooper, James Coker, Gary Cooper, Jackie Cooper Jr., and Thomas Billie III.

MINNIE FACTOR

MORRIS -- Funeral services were held for Minnie Factor, 78, April 15th at Big Cussetah Church.

Factor was born January 9, 1914 in Okmulgee. She was retired from Ball In-Con. She was a member of Big Cussetah Church and a resident of Morris.

Surviving are: daughters Annie Artussee of Oklahoma City, and Sissie Lewis of Hanna; a son, John Factor of Oklahoma City; niece, Debbie Smith, Cattoosa; ten grandchildren and twelve great- grandchildren.

Rev. Thomas Long officiated the service. Pallbearers were Pete Cosar, George Cosar Jr., Wayne Coser, Tom Warrior, Morris Warrior, Fred Thomas, and Ward Beaver.

SINDY JACKSON

TULSA -- Funeral services were held April 17th for Sindy Jackson, 62, of Okemah. Jackson was born December 12, 1929 in Hughes County. She died April 14 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

She was a provider and a homemaker, and a member of Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Simon and Selina Mitchell Jackson.

Surviving relatives include one sister, Lovana Jackson; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The service was officiated by Rev. Thomas Long at Big Cussetah Methodist Church.

SALLIE HULWA

OKEMAH -- Funeral services for Sallie Hulwa, 76, were held May 8 at Greenleaf Baptist Church. Rev. Hiwatha Fixico officiated, with Noah Burgess assisting.

She was born March 7, 1916 in Okfuskee County, the daughter of Chick Roberts and Ella (Smith) Hill. She was married to Andy Hulwa, who preceded her in death in 1964.

Hulwa was a retired Creek Nation Community Health Representative and a member of Greenleaf Baptist Church.

She had resided in Seminole County the past 44 years. Also preceding her in death were: one sister; and two brothers.

Survivors include: one son John Joe Hulwa of Oklahoma City; three daughters, Marie Bemo of Okemah, Emma Ruth Fish of Okeechobee, Fla., and Bernice Fish of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Katherine Foreman of Tahlequah and Seely Deere of Okmulgee; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Grandsons served as pallbearers.

FOSTER SUMKA

TULSA -- Foster Sumka, 62 of Henryetta died March 29, 1992 in Tulsa.

He was born November 28, 1939, in McIntosh County. Funeral services were held at Merritt Chapel, Henryetta, on April 1. Rev. Bryant Jesse officiated.

Sumka was baptized by Rev. Roley Haynes in 1941 and was a member of Hickory Ground Number one.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Rev. Willie and Salina Sumka; and a sister Della Fixico.

Survivors include: his wife, Lorene of the home; six sons, Wayne, Kenneth, and Foster Jr. of the home, Jerry of Henryetta, Terry of Marlow, and Mark of Tulsa; two daughters, Ann Marie of Tulsa and Loretta of Henryetta; one step daughter, Janet Lee of Henryetta; two brothers, Benjamin Sumka and Perryman Sumka, both of Henryetta; three sisters, Hepsy Lawson of Tulsa, Polly Wright, and Melinda Sumka, both of Henryetta.

Active Pallbearers were Riley Frye, Barton Looney, Jim Kelley, Jim Hicks, Newman Thompson Jr., and George Jacobs. Honorary Pallbearers were Dick Bunny and Marvin Sumka.

CILLA "TOTTIE" YOWELL

SAPULPA -- Funeral services were held for Cilla "Tottie" Hammer Yowell at Pickett Chapel Methodist Church with Revs. Thomas Long, Mike Harjo, and Roy Bigpond officiating.

Casketbearers were Terry Lunsford, Ronald Hill, Cecil Tiger, Daniel Wolfe, Tommy Tiger, and Howard Holloway Jr.

Honorary casketbearers were Paul Tiger, Kenny Tiger, Darrell Tiger, Bebe Tiger, John Brown, Bill Gibson, Jimmy Gibson, Luther Tiger, Howard Holloway Sr., Arnold Gibson, Leo Tiger, Bill Tiger, Tim Brown, and Dwight Pickering.

NOAH DUNN JR.

TULSA -- Funeral services for Noah Dunn Jr., 38, were held May 4 at Stout Funeral Chapel, Wewoka. Dunn died April 30 at St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa.

Dunn was born Nov. 11, 1953 in Okemah. He attended Butner schools and had lived in Okemah and Dallas.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Noah Dunn Sr. and Louise Dunn. Survivors include: one daughter, Antonette Koteen of Dallas; three brothers, Reuben Dunn, Ben Dunn, and Norman Simmons, all of Okemah; two sisters, Lena Dobbins and Eloise Keen, both of Oklahoma City.

The wake service was held May 3. Burial was in the Snake Creek Cemetery.

MINNIE LOWE

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Funeral services for Minnie Lowe, 71, of Weleetka, were held May 13 at the Arbeka Baptist Church with Rev. Mose Scott officiating, and Rev. Robert Washington assisting. Lowe died May 10 in Oklahoma City.

She was born Jan. 8, 1921 in the Wilson Community. She was a member of Arbeka Baptist Church. She married John Lowe in 1945.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, Timmie and Rosie West Randall; two brothers, Spy and George Randall; three sisters, Rosella Tanequodle, Amanda Cosar, and Betty Randall.

Survivors include her husband, Rev. Lowe, of the home in Weleetka; five sons, Wilbert, Tony, and Marvin Lowe, all of Henryetta, John Jacob Lowe of Okemah, and Timmie Lowe of Glenpool; one daughter, Rachel Lowe Bear of Glenpool;one brother, Willie Randall of Preston; four sisters, Susie Monday of Morris, Hepsey Gilroy of Wilson, Angie Screechowl of Bryant, and Fannie Coffee of Tulsa; and 18 grandchildren.

Interment was in the Arbeka Cemetery. Pallbearers were Harvey Gilroy, Bruce Randall, Togo Randall, Freeland Powell, Dempsey Micco, and Terrell Tanequodle. Honorary pallbearers were Katie Harjo, Nora West, Daisy Marshall, Lizzie Roper, Mattie Burgess, Alice Harjo, and Ellen McIntosh.

Acknowledgements

The Sumka Family would like to say thank you for the many acts of kindness that were extended to us at the time of the loss of our beloved father, brother, uncle, and friend. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Special thanks to Merritt Funeral Home, Creek Nation, Thewahle Baptist Church members, G & H Decoy, Henryetta City Garage, Rev. Bryant Jesse, and Ryal Community Church, also to the many neighbors and friends.

The family of Foster Sumka.

The family of Minnie Factor want to thank all who brought flowers, food, groceries, and the ladies of Big Cussetah Church who did all the cooking for the family. Also, thank you to Juanita Artussee, Arbeka Tribal Town, who helped with the cooking, and Creek Nation, for the use of the center after the wake service, and everyone who participated.

The family of Minnie Factor

Lomvlke 5:3-5

3. Momen mv tvlkuseon, estemerkvu es epu 'fvcket omes, estemerkvt momis-kometvn vtotken;

4. Momen momis-kometvt nake es kerretvn vtotken; nake es kerretvt enhonrkvn vtotkan kerrekv;

5. Momen enhonrkvt vlsecekot os; Hesaketvmese em vnokeckv, Puyvfekcv Vcake pu'mat etehoyvnen, pu feke ofvn hvmecicet omekv.

Annual festival and rodeo expected to bring thousands to Okmulgee

continued from page 1

plex fields. Contact Dean Williams at (918) 756-8700 for the mens' tourney. Contact Karen Long at (918) 756-8504 for the womens' tourney;

-- the first annual festival 5K run. A certifired course covering five kilometers (3.1 miles) at 8 a.m. June 20. Contact Roger Barnett or Sherri Brokeshoulder at (918) 756-8700;

-- all-Indian volleyball tournament June 19 and 20. Contact Annie Hicks at (918) 623-1963;

-- all-Indian bowling tournament June 20 at the Beeline Bowling Lanes, Okmulgee. Contact Sarah Ward at (918) 756-6187;

-- all-Indian golf tournament begins June 20 at Fountainhead State Park, Eufaula. Flights for all golfers. Contact Jim Burgess at (918) 756-2162;

-- children's games begin at 10 a.m. June 20, at the omniplex. Jill Tucker coordinator; and

-- Mvskoke elders' games and honors program June 20 and 21. Arts and crafts, games, and recognition of elders of the year. Contact Rita Williams at (918) 652-7500 or Pat Morgan at (918) 756-8700.

Festival to be patrolled

The 1992 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo will be policed by the tribe's law enforcement division.

This is the first year for the tribe to assume full jurisdiction for events on tribal property at the omniplex in Okmulgee.

The high profile presence of the law enforcement division is to prevent disruptive behavior, fighting, and drinking at the festival.

In April, the National Council added sections regarding public drunk and intoxication on tribal property to the criminal and traffic code.

''We just want to be certain that everyone has a good time, within the law, at the festival.'' said festival secretary Donna Frank.

Contract expenditure report

Per the general P.L. 93-638 contract provisions as stated in Article II, section 207 (c), the following monthly expenditure report is being provided. The figures reflect what has been expended and not balances.

A more detailed expenditure report can be reviewed at the office of contracts at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Capitol Complex in Okmulgee.

Expenditures of federal grants for April 1992

Job Training Partnership Act -	**$29,900**
Head Start -	**$37,793**
Administration on Aging -	**0**
Community Services Block Grant -	**$3,137**
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program -	**$1,885**
Title IV B, childrens' services -	**$10,814**
Homeless Assistance Act of 1992 -	**$848**
1992 food distribution -	**$26,048**
DIAC energy assistance -	**0**
Headstart U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reimburse -	**$3,679**
Bureau of Indian Affairs adult education -	**$5,354**
BIA aid to tribal government -	**$28,339**
BIA community services -	**$4,923**
BIA higher education -	**$17,521**
BIA natural resources -	**$26,022**
BIA adult vocational training -	**$19,679**
BIA employment assistance -	**$1,264**
BIA Johnson O'Malley early childhood -	**$1,903**
BIA agriculture -	**$10,898**
BIA social services -	**$26,000**
BIA housing -	**$23,895**
BIA real estate appraisals -	**$6,786**
BIA real estate services -	**$11,015**
BIA Indian child welfare -	**$12,576**
BIA business development grant -	**0**
Eufaula dormitory -	**$66,553**
Community health representatives -	**$54,652**

Posey: humorist and folk hero

continued from page 1

don't quit their monkey business the white men will round them up and put them back in jail for about ten years next time.''

During his research, Littlefield said he rarely encountered anyone who did not know who Posey was. ''What we have is a folk hero. My job (in writing the book) was to try to find the man.''

Littlefield maintains the public has always viewed Posey as folk hero, never as Alex Posey -- the man. He attributes this romantic folk hero image as being fostered by his caucasian wife, Lowena.

''We don't know more about the man, because his wife guarded his reputation until he died.''

Littlefield describes the public Posey as a poet, journalist, bureaucrat and diehard Democrat. As he was doted on by his mother, Nancy Tiger Posey, his sisters, and wife, the personal Posey was a spoiled, temperamental individual. ''Also, Alex liked people, especially women to 'do' for him,'' Littlefield writes.

Posey is also said to have been a practical, petulant, reticent, and insecure individual. His insecurities are expressed in his lack of desire to publish poetry in the east. ''I write exclusively of the West, of home scenes and places, and fearing that my local allusions might not be appreciated elsewhere, I have never made any attempt to get a hearing in the East,'' Posey reasoned. Littlefield contends ''seeking a broader audience would have pushed his literary career to a new level.'' Apathetic to praise or ridicule, Posey claimed mere contentment ''... with being called the sweet singer of my tribe....''

Posey is well-known for his work with the Dawes Commission. Between 1904 through 1907, he attempted to enroll Creeks in order for them to receive land allotments. His biggest challenge was enrolling ''lost'' Creeks or followers of Chitto Harjo. The snakes refused to accept allotments because they held to provisions of the Treaty of 1832. Though considered an adversary, Posey maintained a unique relationship with many of them. Littlefield attributes Posey's success in obtaining information from them to his Mvskoke family background. His understanding of several Mvskoke dialects, matrilineal ties to the Wind Clan and Tuskegee Tribal Town, and keen observation afforded him some access to the staunch conservatives.

''He knew who belonged to what (tribal) towns, he knew who rode what types of horses, and even what type of dogs they had. Posey would apparently just suck on to people and not let them go until he had drained every bit of conversation from them.'' And it was older men whom Posey turned to for companionship and the expression of ideas, Littlefield added.

There was also the lighter side of Posey, with which he shared through his humor and playing practical jokes on family and friends.

Following his work with the commission, Posey began work in real estate. He had resumed editing the Indian Journal shortly before his death. Littlefield contends Posey would have went on to greater literary endeavors had Posey not drowned.

His poem ''Fancy'' has been attributed as Posey's premonition of death. Littlefield states the poem has been mistakenly assumed to be one of the last poems Posey wrote before his drowning in the North Canadian (Oktahv Hvtce) River.

The fact that 10 deaths, some drownings, occurred in the area of Posey's demise, 25 years following his death, fueled the speculation of overzealous reporters and writers, Littlefield contends.

''If he did (have a premonition) -- he had it over a decade before he died,'' Littlefield said.

Editor's note: Daniel F. Littlefield Jr is a professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Tribal briefs

continued from page 4

that chants, roots and herbs are key elements in healing and that a person has to believe in order to be healed.

He showed the students roots, a horn and a medicine stick made of reed and discussed the significance of each.

Lewis' visit was designed to expose OSU-COM students to another view of healing. Many of these students will practice in rural areas and may have contact with traditional healers.

Some of their patients also may be under the care of a traditional healer. If physicians know and understand alternative approaches to healing, they will be better able to work with these patients.

Council member honored

OKMULGEE -- Okmulgee District Representative Charlie Litsey has been nomiated as outstanding employee of the year at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee by the faculty-employee council at the school. Litsey retired early this year from OSU.

Tribe offers GED classes

OKMULGEE -- General Equivalency Diploma classes are held Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Independent Agencies (mound) Building. Eligible participants must complete enrollment forms, present certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB), and reside within the Creek Nation boundaries. For more information, contact Cheryl Bear, adult education department, at (918) 756-8700.

Court to hold public forum

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court will hold a public forum June 17, beginning at 3 p.m. in the tribal courtroom at the capitol complex in Okmulgee.

The purpose of the forum is to hear citizen complaints and suggestions regarding the tribal court operations. The meeting is open to the public.

Career opportunities plentiful in small business

continued from page 5

technology? "There is no distinct student profile," Walton said. "We've enrolled students directly form high schools, and others who have retired from one career and are wanting to start another."

In a closely aligned profession housed in adjoining labs, Wit Jarochowski teaches the college's watch and micro-instrument program. Mr. Jarochowski is a graduate of Warsaw Polytechnic Institute with a degree in precision mechanical engineering.

"Most potential students are concerned whether or not they have the necessary mechanical skills to repair watches," Jarochowski said. "That's not the most important criterion for a watchmaker. Those skills can be taught."

"The ability to think creatively, knowing how to troubleshoot a problem, counts far more than mechanical ability," Jarochowski explained. "Watch making students start with the basics--learning how to use the watchmaker's tools and memorize each part and function of a conventional mainspring movement. In subsequent semesters, students progress into the study of electronic watches and clock repair. Micro- instrument repair, an integral portion of the program, has many applications for power and process control industries and in avionics. For more information, contact OSU-Okmuglee, 1801 E. 4th Okmulgee, OK 74447, (918) 756-6211

OSU scholarships available

Scholarships are available at OSU-Okmulgee for new incoming students. The Small Business Occupations Department offers scholarships to qualified persons meeting eligibility requirements in one of the following programs: jewelry technology, watch and micro-instrumentation repair, shoe boot and saddle, and upholstery design and restoration.

For more information contact the Creek Nation Higher Education department at (918) 756-8700 or OSU-Okmulgee at (918) 756-6211.

Tourney to be held

OKMULGEE -- The Okmulgee Mens' Slowpitch Classic Tournament will be held 9 a.m., June 6 and 7 at the Creek Nation Omniplex.

First place winner will be awarded individual trophies and a team trophy. Second place winner will receive t-shirts and a team trophy. Third place winner will receive a team trophy. A most valuable player trophy will also be awarded.

Teams must provide blue dot balls. The $85 entry fee is due June 3.

For more information, call Dean Williams at (918) 756-8700 or 756-2239, after 5 p.m. or Rocky Lee at (918) 652-9718.

How they voted

The following lists the roll call votes from the National Council's April 25 regular session. Included is the legislative number of the action, a brief description, sponsor, and the votes of the representatives by district. Speaker Clarence Cloud (Creek) votes only to break ties.

TR 92-01

A tribal resolution declaring the unconstitutionality of the Congressional Act of March 1901, which historically abridged the religious freedom of the ceremonial Mvskoke, Yuchi people.

The resolution urges Congress to amend the treaty to include provisions for the observance and practice of traditional religion. Sponsored by Tom Berryhill, Okmulgee.

passed 23-0
For the resolution (by district):
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Absent: R. Bear, (Creek); Newton, Pickering, (McIntosh); Chupco, (Muskogee); Johnson, (Okfuskee); Gilroy, (Okmulgee); Wilson, (Tulsa)

NCR 92-29

A National Council resolution authorizing the Principal Chief to negotiate a purchase price for 2,750 acres in Okmulgee county.

Sponsored by: Tom Pickering, McIntosh; and George Almerigi, Okmulgee
pass 23-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

NCA 92-60

A bill authorizing the purchase of Creek tribal flags for chartered communities, tribal towns, tribal facilities, and veterans centers from unappropriated bingo revenue.

The bill appropriates $1,800 from Docket 275 money.

Sponored by: Irene Cleghorn, Tulsa; and Earl Wheeler, Creek.
Passed 22-0-1
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Abstain
Okmulgee - Almerigi

NCA 92-64

A bill authorizing the executive branch to apply for federal and private foundation grants.

Allows the executive branch to apply for funding within the long and short-range plans of the tribe. Requires the contract awards and other information be submitted to the Council.

Sponsored by: Jerry Wilson, Tulsa
pass 23-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman,,Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

NCA 92-53

A bill amending NCA 89-94 for funding source and compensation increase.

The bill identifies the funding for the tribe's Gaming Operations Authority Board (bingo operations). The bill was amended to limit the compensation of board members to $50 per meeting and reimbursement for mileage.

Sponsored by: Tom Pickering, McIntosh
Passed 20-3
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Against the bill:
Hughes - Coachman
Tulsa - Bible, Cahwee

NCA 92-61

The Industrial Development Act of 1992

The act creates an economic development board apart from the tribal political structure for the purpose of doing business.

Sponsored by: George Almerigi, Okmulgee
passed 23-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

NCA 92-65

A bill appropriating funds to the tribal vocational grants.

A supplemental appropriation of $25,000 from Docket 275 funds for the vocational grant program.

Sponsored by: Larry Bible, Tulsa
passed 22-0-1
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Abstaining
Tulsa - Randall

NCA 92-66

A bill adopting additional offenses and penalties to the criminal code.

The bill adds codes for public intoxication, inhalants on tribal property, and desecration of sacred sites.

passed 21-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Absent: Jackson, (Okfuskee)

NCA 92-70

An ordinance authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to sign an uplink contract with Gamma International Limited.

The ordinance allows the board to authorize the use of the Tulsa bingo facility for satellite transmissions.

Sponsored by: George Almerigi, Okmulgee
passed 21-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Jackson, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

TR 92-06

A tribal resolution establishing priorities for Fiscal Year 1994 Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal budget system.

Sponsored by: Tommy Newton, McIntosh
Passed 21-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

NCR 92-30

A National Council resolution establishing a board of education for the Eufaula Boarding School.

Sponsored by: Human resources committee
passed 20-0
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas

A resolution to follow the recommendations of the principal chief to suspend operations of the tribal dairy.

Introduced by: Clarence Cloud, speaker
Passed 15-4-1
For the bill:
Creek - M. Cahwee, Wheeler
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - W. Bear, McIntosh
Muskogee - Little
Okfuskee - Birdcreek, Roberts
Okmulgee - Almerigi, T. Berryhill, Ellis, Litsey, Tiger
Tulsa - Bible, D. Cahwee, Cleghorn, Kelley, Randall
Wagoner - R. Berryhill, Thomas
Against the bill:
Hughes - Coachman, Franks, Lowe
McIntosh - McIntosh
Abstain
Muskogee - Little
Absent: Bible, (Tulsa); Tiger, (Okmulgee)

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 6 P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 June 1992, 12 Pages

INSIDE:

FESTIVAL '92
Greetings and schedule of events

NEWS
Creeks lead protest against state in tobacco tax controversy

FEATURES
Creek Councilman solves improbable case and earns national recognition

PLUS
Communities
Senior Spotlight

Welcome to the Festival!

18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo
1992

Letters to the Editor

Michigan reader praises administration

Editor:

Regarding the stories ''100 Days'':

I would like to say congratulations (to Principal Chief Bill Fife). I join the Beggs resident in saying it's really too early to evaluate the chief's performance.

But I will say the chief is showing great leadership.

Following 20 years of a previous administration will, at times, make it difficult to follow a new agenda. This we must understand because of the many unexpected challenges you may have in the changing of the guard. But the chief has already moved forward by not being critical of past administration.

Pursuing his own goals, I'm confident (that) in the next few months, your efforts will be very visible to the Creek Nation.

Regarding the second chief's column appearing in the April edition of The Muscogee Nation News:

You just sent an eye-opening message to the Creek people of Oklahoma and to all Native Americans.

Answering to House Bill 1979 and joint resolution 1072 authored by several state representatives of Oklahoma: with this kind of legislation pending and the governor declaring 1992 the year of the Indian, it seems to be a death sentence for native America.

The decrease in (Creek) population and the decrease of (tribal) land acreage (has occurred) while under the protection of the federal government.

Where did the land go?

As the second chief wrote: both bill's attack Indian tribes as a resource for funding for the department of health and human services. Again, we are being put on the chopping block.

Thanks second chief, for the message.

Douglas Harding, Ypsilanti, Mich.

Sapulpan defends Christianity

Editor:

An individual made several comments in the May issue of The Muscogee Nation News, including how those of us that are Christians are in error, and how our faith is responsible for sixty million Indian deaths. This deeply disturbs and saddens me.

First, I want to say I'm proud of my Creek Heritage, and of being a Christian. As a one-year member of Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, I've had a chance to be a part of and observe what our faith is really about.

The simple message that God so loved the whole world through Jesus Christ was and is not to be forced (upon others). True men and women of God risked their lives to bring the gospel in love to Indian peoples. My own great-great grandfather, a full-blood Creek, Rev. Samuel Checote, shared Jesus with the Muscogee people. But for this, he was beaten and whipped by tribal leaders.

The ones who hurt our people were greedy, godless, self-centered persons who feigned religion as a means of control.

Anyone who truly knows the Savior in their heart could never be responsible for all the past carnage. I can't prove there is a Jesus, but he lives in me. He governs my actions with the fruit of his character. I would never wish for the deaths of my people just because of their rejection of Christ.

Christianity is not a ''white man's religion,'' it is a ''people'' relationship with their Creator. I do respect the old ways and ceremonies as part of my native history, with history being the key word. My future belongs to Jesus Christ.

Kathy Irwin, Sapulpa

Defining the role of women in politics

by Shelly Crow, Second Chief
Musocgee (Creek) Nation

When one speaks of being proud to be mad in our Muscogee Nation, the first reaction to the reader is that that person is possibly a member of the American Indian Movement.

My definition of mad for the second chief's role is making a difference for our people that has long been overlooked in this tribe.

In the recent June issue of *Life* magazine, the main focus is on ''If Women Ran America.'' I encourage all Muscogeans to read this article. It addresses the concerns of this country and how women can and have made a tremendous impact on our society concerning social issues.

There are only two female U.S. Senators, three female state governors, and only one U.S. Supreme Court Justice. These women are the only leaders in our country that know what it means to bear a child. And yet, men are making the decisions concerning welfare, employment, health care, etc.

Presently, 186 women have declared their candidacies for congressional office. The first woman elected to congress was Jeanette Rankin of Montana. Immediately after her election, a male reader for the New York Times argued that the new representative should be ineligible. His logic was that ''the makers of the Constitution, where they used 'person' meant a man, and not a woman, for it says 'he'''.

Polls that have been done by *Life*, found the following to be true about women in politics, or any setting:

-- women are far more committed than to men to cushioning the hard corners of the country, to simply making a safer place;

-- women want stricter law enforcement against drunk driving, firearms, and drug dealing, which may be another way of saying they want to keep their children alive. It's not that men don't care about these issues. It's simply that women care more.

Women are tired of the overwhelming statistics of crimes against females. In 1990, an estimated 683,000 American women were raped - at least two million are abused each year by husbands and boyfriends. Women are demanding these issues be addressed, even among our people.

Child support in this country has never been enforced because men do not want to penalize men, but yet the taxpayer picks up the mens' responsibility.

In taking on a political position in any government, women are encouraged with the traditional definition of equality. ''Sure the doors are open so long as you want to compete on precisely the same terrible terms that have been destroying mens' lives for generations.'' It's an invitation that many women can't, won't, and don't want to accept.

Our society encourages men to dream big and women to dream of big men, stated Lisa Grunwald, author of the article.

Court Justice Rosalie E. Wahl put it bluntly, about some men's thinking.

''Thinking like a man just means proceeding from the left side of your brain in a linear way. But you can think logically and right over the edge of the cliff. There's got to be a more encompassing view: Is this the best rule of the law.''

In reviewing *Life's* poll, a country with more women in the political seats of government would be a country with a heart that wasn't stitched to a pin-striped sleeve when campaign season rolled around.

Most people agree that women go into public service and run for elected office not to make a difference in their own lives, but make a difference in other peoples' lives.

In the 1988 presidential election, 5,924,630 more

please see **WOMEN...**, page 11

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the Creek Nation Tribal Capitol Complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursdays, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Fridays, 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.
KRAF-Holdenville, am 1370, Saturdays, 3 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sundays, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturdays, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sundays, 7 a.m.

Oklahoma delegation successful, get green corn reference removed

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- The text of a Christianized green corn service was recently excluded from the The United Methodist Book of Worship through the efforts of Native American groups attending its general conference.

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Native American Caucus of the United Methodist Church expressed their opposition to its publication while addressing the United Methodist legislative committee. The OIMC, one of 71 United Methodist conferences in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and the caucus, an advocate group for Indian Methodists, appeared before the legislative committee and presented statements supporting its exclusion from the book. After hearing the groups' arguments, the committee recommended the general conference exclude the service -- at which the general conference affirmed its recommendation.

> **"We negotiated it out....**
> **It was a moot point after we made our presentation."**
> **Tom Roughface, OIMC delegate**

In March, the traditional people of the Mvskokullke Etvlwa Etelaketa (Creek Tribal Town Confederacy) passed a resolution requesting its removal from the book of worship. As confederacy members practice the green corn ceremony (posketv), an ancient Mvskoke religion, they contend changing their religious ceremony is blasphemous. Confederacy leaders believe the text's author, Rev. Fred Shaw, an Ohio Shawnee, had no right to authorize the use of the ceremony. The confederacy's resolution also requests ''...no further action be taken on the green corn ceremony in any form.''

The ceremony's inclusion in the book of worship was discussed between the OIMC, the caucus, and the committee before being officially deleted from the book, said Andy Langford, the book of worship chief editor.

''We negotiated it out, so it was never (voted upon) on the floor of the general conference. It was a moot point after we made our presentation,'' said Tom Roughface, OIMC clergy delegate.

The book of worship committee was a temporary task force created during the 1988 general conference, specifically for revising the book.

Roughface said the OIMC also urged the legislative committee recommend such task force committees not include ceremonies that would identify tribal groups.

''To me, the green corn ceremony identifies Creeks and Seminoles,'' said Roughface.

The first discussion took place May 6, said Langford. ''At that point, it was very clear it had to go out,'' he said.

Creeks to lead sovereignty battle

Creek Chief says he will not negotiate sovereignty

by Jim Wolfe
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE -- Tribal leaders say the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is poised to lead the challenge against Oklahoma's attempt to regulate Indian commerce.

The Creek tribe is the only member of the Five Tribes Intertribal Council that has not reached a compact agreement with the state for payments on tribal tobacco sales.

''The state is infringing on tribal sovereignty,'' said Principal Chief Bill Fife at the sovereignty symposium June 9 in Oklahoma City.

''We must protect our sovereignty,'' Fife said. ''I don't think the U.S. Congress ever intended for any tribe to become a tax base for any state.''

The state's attempt to collect taxes from the tribes on tobacco sales to non-Indians began earlier this year with the drafting of House Bill 1979.

Protests from several tribes, including the Muscogee Nation, led to the bill being gutted in a house of representatives- senate joint committee session.

Failing with that attempt, the Oklahoma Senate then approved Senate Bill 759, which calls for tribes to pay 25 percent of all tobacco revenues instead of collecting state taxes. The state tax is currently 23 cents per pack.

The bill passed the Oklahoma Senate and House and was signed by Governor David Walters in late May.

The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole tribes agreed to make the payments to the state.

The actions of the state, and those of the four eastern tribes, drew criticism from several other tribes across the state.

Wyandotte Chief Leonard Bearskin wrote a letter to each of the chiefs that signed the agreement. Bearskin wrote that the four tribes sold the other tribes ''down the river.''

''I view your despicable actions with complete disgust and contentment,'' wrote Bearskin.

Tulsa District Representative Jerry Wilson said many of the smaller tribes expressed gratitude for the

please see **TRIBE...**, page 11

Creek Council member beats odds, solves five-year-old murder mystery

GLENPOOL -- When a human skeleton was found northwest of Glenpool Jan. 5, 1992, a ring and dental records were city police chief Larry Bible's only solid clues to the victim's identification.

But after going beyond the call of duty, using non-traditional investigative clues, and conducting a multiple jurisdiction investigation, Tulsa District National Council member Bible solved the case.

After four days of digging and sifting through dirt, all of the victims skeletal remains, with the exception of a few finger bones, were recovered.

Bible's first step in solving the murder mystery was sending the victim's description to police departments throughout the U.S. via teletype. The victim's only identifying remains and effects were her teeth, rings, shoes and tattered clothes. Police departments with missing persons reports matching the victim's height, weight, and sex responded by sending around one dozen reports, said Bible. ''We had inquiries from all over the place.'' What he didn't know, was that her missing person's report was almost in his own back yard.

On July 5, 1986 the family of Carolyn Lucille Pierce, Rolla, Mo., filed a missing persons report with the City of Tulsa Police Department. It wasn't until Jan. 24, 1992 that Bible matched the Tulsa-filed missing persons report with the victim. Bible notified the family of the possible identification of Pierce. They arrived the following day, but were not able to positively identify her rings. On Jan. 28, Bible travelled to the Pierce home in Rolla with her rings, shoes, and tattered clothing. Upon comparing her ring with that of her husband's, Bible found they matched. The manufacturer's stamps inside the ring bands were identical. Her shoes were also matched with an identical pair in her closet. Her daughter recalled being with her when she pur-

GLENPOOL
POLICE

Larry Bible Sr.

please see **BIBLE...**, page 12

Communities offer shell shaking, language, singing classes

compiled by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Dewar slates classes, bingo, and food sales

-- Dewar Indian Community has Mvskoke language classes, and grocery bingo and food sales slated for the month of June.

The community will be holding Mvskoke language classes for the following six weeks at 7 p.m., each Monday night. Its food sale and bingo will be held on the first Tuesday of each month with the sale beginning at 6:30 p.m. and bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Next month's bingo is scheduled for July 7. Players will bingo for grocery items; admission is $4 for 20 games.

-- At 7:15 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, the community van offers community members rides to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah. Those interested in rides should schedule their trip at least one day in advance. Community members may call the center at 652-3310 or Eliza Mae Hicks, community secretary, at 652-7795. Riders should arrive at the center, located at 402 Luella St., by 7 a.m.

-- The community Father's Day dinner will be held at noon, June 18.

-- Community members wish Helen Bible, community treasurer, a quick recovery from her recent eye surgery.

Duck Creek center nearing completion

-- By July, Duck Creek Indian Community members should be meeting in their own facility. The building was erected recently at 241st St. and U.S. Highway 75. Currently, the building's interior is being completed, said Nancy Jo Harry, community vice-chair.

-- Duck Creek Indian Community students Mindy Wilson Brown and Karen Brown are among seniors that recently graduated from Liberty Mounds High School. Bubba Tiger, Kathy Harrison, and Ryan Smith also recently graduated from Liberty Mounds Middle School.

Glenpool chair celebrates birthday

-- Glenpool Creek Indian Community members recently held a surprise birthday party for community chair Kenneth Childers. Childers is 52-years-old.

He is also chair of the Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Ken Childers

Hanna youth in for active festival weekend

-- Hanna Indian Community's 34 Creek Festival Youth Olympic's participants will be treated to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus following their performance at the olympics.

Kellyville holds weekend jamborees

-- The Kellyville Indian Community is leasing its facilities to Hank Polen, Bristow, on weekends. Polen will be organizing jamborees at the center each weekend.

The variety/talent show will begin at 5 p.m., with regular bands starting at 8 p.m.

-- Community chair Delbert Dunn celebrated his birthday at the community center June 2.

-- Annie Watashe was the winner of the regular meeting door prize.

Weleetka offers transportation to elders

-- Weleetka Indian Community is offering its elders transportation to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah, each Monday.

Community elders wanting transportation should arrive at the center, 609 S. Chickasaw, by 10 a.m.

Bristow holds successful Indian art show

-- Bristow Indian Community had 16 Indian artists enter its recent Indian art show.

Winning in the adult division were: Monica Hanson, first, painting; Greg Bigler, second, photography; and Mason Harjo, third, painting. Winning in the children's category were: Richard Pappan, first, painting; Mindy Gilroy, second, painting; and Greg Deeringwater, third, painting.

-- The community has around 40 children participating in the Creek Nation Youth Olympics. Coaching the youth is Solomon Hill.

-- The community recently purchased 10 badges for the City of Bristow Fire Department. ''We are supportive of Bristow. We just like to show our appreciation,'' said Judy Riley, community chair.

Local newspaper publishes Muskogee menu

-- Muskogee Indian Community elders may read each Wednesday's Muskogee Phoenix, features section, for the coming week's elders' nutrition center menu.

Okmulgee Creek senior awarded scholarship

-- Creek student Josh Pascale was the recipient of Okmulgee Indian Community's Endowment Award. The senior was recently awarded the $250 scholarship at an Okmulgee High School awards ceremony.

Holdenville voting on revised constitution

-- Holdenville Indian Community will be voting on the adoption of a revised constitution 7 p.m., June 22.

Should the constitution be adopted, the community will be deciding upon either the immediate election of officers or to set an election date, said Jerry Wilson, National Council Second Speaker and community lawmender.

Eufaula prepares kids for festival olympics

-- Eufaula Indian Community activity coordinator and youth olympics coach Jerry Francis has been occupied with preparing its 57 children for the Creek Nation Festival Youth Olympics.

-- The next scheduled date for the community youth skating trip is 6:30 p.m., July 6. Francis takes the children skating on the first Monday of each month. Children should sign-up at the community office to go skating.

Checotah holds pie auction and forum

-- Checotah Indian Community recently held a pie auction along with a candidates' forum featuring representatives of its district Congressmen.

The proceeds from the pie auction go toward the construction of the Checotah Little League's baseball/softball park.

-- The community, as well as Sharpe's Department Store, has purchased the grand champion saddle for the Old Settlers' Day Rodeo. The rodeo will be held June 11 through 13.

Koweta active with classes, youth olympics

-- Koweta Indian Community still holds Mvkoke hymn singing classes at 7 p.m., each Tuesday night.

-- John T. McIntosh is the coach of the community's Creek Nation Festival Youth Olympics team.

-- The community is planning an upcoming finger weaving and beading class.

New Okemah community chair resigns

-- Tom Yahola, who was elected community chair during a May 18 special election, recently resigned from the position because of health reasons.

-- The community has been accepting applications for a program developer and will be selecting an applicant soon.

-- Fletcher's American Indian Food owner, Melton Fletcher, Choctaw, donated the use of his food trailer and food items to the Okemah Indian Community on June 12. The community utilized the trailer to hold an Indian taco sale in its center parking lot. All proceeds will be used for community youth olympics expenses.

Fletcher is affiliated with the North American Indian Cultural Center, Akron, Ohio. Nancy Duncan, community secretary, is the NAICC former program coordinator and director.

Fletcher will also be setting his booth up at the Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo.

Okfuskee plans August flea market

-- Okfuskee Indian Community will be holding a flea market from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Aug. 8.

Booth space may be rented for $3. Concessions will be available. For more information, call Annie Hicks, community treasurer, at (918) 623-1963.

Sapulpa offers shell-shaking classes

-- Sapulpa Indian Community is holding a month-long shell shaking class beginning June 11.

please see COMMUNITIES..., page 5

Tribal briefs

Family services receives $1 million child care grant

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been awarded $1.176 million by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of developing child care programs and to provide child care expenses. Muscogee citizens within the state of Oklahoma may be eligible for assistance with child care for their children (newborn through 18 years of age, with few exceptions).

Parents who work (including those in the armed forces), attend on-the-job training programs, vocational-technical training schools, college, general equivalency diploma programs and other education or training programs (including English as second language or English/Muscogee classes) may be able to use the program. The services available are based on income. Those who qualify for free or reduced school lunch programs may be eligible to use these funds.

Extended family members, baby sitters, day-care or child care, and other facilities approved by Muscogee (Creek) Nation's office of child care are eligible to receive funds for providing the care. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start centers may be able to provide before and after class care by contracting with the program.

Families may apply for child care assistance at the office of child care within the Children and Family Services administration at 313 W. 8th St., Okmulgee, or phone (918) 756-2112 for further information.

Community health department, Red Cross sponsor blood drive

OKMULGEE -- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the American Red Cross will have a blood drive July 24 at the Independent Agencies (mound) building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

''Summer days mean more travel and outdoor activities and the chances of accidents increase - so does the need for blood,'' said Sally Foster, manager of the tribe's community health representatives department.

''We encourage all healthy individuals in the community who are at least 17-years-old, weigh more than 110 pounds, and are in good health to join together and participate in this worthy cause. Only by donating blood will we be able to guarantee a safe and ample blood supply when it is needed.''

To sign up for a donation or for more information, contact the community health representative office at (918) 756-8700, ext. 232.

Childrens' services seeking foster parents and families

OKMULGEE -- The Children and Family Services Administration of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is in need of individuals and families who can provide care for children. Individuals and families who have been considering opening their homes to children are encouraged to apply.

There are many options available, some include adoption, short or long term alternative care including guardianships and permanent custody, relative home placements and ''Indian custodial'' arrangements. Funding is available through several sources, on a case by case basis, to assist with the costs of providing care to Muscogee (Creek) children.

Children and Family Services Administration asks that any inquiry be directed to their offices at (918) 756-2112. Application packets are available now.

The initial process may be a little time-consuming, but it is not difficult, said K.T. Fields, manager of the children and family services administration. Relatives may provide care for children of their extended family. Grandparents, parents, families without children, as well as single adults, are welcome to apply.

The primary language spoken in the home has little or nothing to do with the approval process Fields said. Field staff who perform the functions necessary for home approval are culturally competent and proficient in the Mvskoke language.

Vtet, pon ponves.

Housing authority extends deadline for poster contest

OKMULGEE -- The Creek Nation Housing Authority has extended the deadline for its poster contest to June 26. The housing authority contest is part of the 1992 Amerind National Poster contest.

The contest is for children who will be attending kindergarten through the eighth-grade and reside in a mutual help home or in a CNHA rental project.

All entries should illustrate a fire safety theme. Entries will be judged by presenting a message that is clear, important, and colorful. Entries are not to exceed 11 and one-half by 14 inches.

Attach to the back of the poster a piece of paper that includes the child's name, grade, school, tribe, Indian housing authority, home address, phone numbers, and parents names.

Gift certificates will be awarded on the local level for first, second, and third places.

For more information, contact Bert Robison at 1-800-259-5050.

Creek becomes partner in Tulsa graphic arts firm

TULSA -- Cecil Cummings, Cherokee, president of Feathergraphix, Inc. announced that Dannette Russell, Creek, has joined Feathergraphix as partner and vice-president of marketing/public relations. Cummings said the addition of Russell will enable him to expand and complement his commercial art and design services byproviding full-line marketing and public relations.

Russell previously served as corporate communication manager for Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa and in the last ten years has proven her abilities in marketing and public relations in both corporate and non-profit businesses. Active in the Indian business community, Russell is a board member for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross Minority Initiative Committee, an alternate for the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission, and volunteers for the American Indian Heritage Center. ''I believe that Indian business professionals should give back something to our Indian

please see BRIEFS..., page 11

Festival youth olympics keeps communities busy

continued from page 4

The class will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., each Thursday night. All community members age five and up may take the class.

Class instructors will be: Flora Davis, Peach Ground; Evelyn Bucktrot, Sand Creek; Adeline West, Duck Creek; and Vickie Fox, Duck Creek.

-- The community is planning for another social dance to be held for community adults.

Wetumka plans raffle and breakfast buffet

-- Wetumka Indian Community social committee chair DeAnn Yargee is planning an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet for July 18.

Among food items the buffet will include are sausage, bacon, pancakes, biscuits, eggs, and gravy. The buffet will cost $3 and be held from 7 a.m. to noon.

-- Community members have been selling tickets for a quilt that will be raffled off during its July 18 Father's Day dinner. The elders will raffle off the quilt following the noon dinner.

-- Leo Moppin and Mary and Bruce Jones are coaching the community's youth olympics team.

-- On June 4, Second Chief Shelly Crow updated community members of her accomplishments, since being inducted into office, on behalf of the tribe. Crow ended her presentation with an informal question and answer period. Creek Nation Children and Family Services Administration employees Janet Wise and Bonnie Deere also disseminated information over the administration's office of childcare community development block grant.

-- Winners of the community elders' June 6 double's domino tournament were: Bob Flanagan, Dustin and Tubby Yargee, Wetumka, first place; and Pete Lena, Wetumka and Toots Kincade, Wetumka, second.

Tulsan receives human rights award

-- Tulsa Creek Indian Community vice-chair and Tulsa District Representative Okema Randall is the recipient of the City of Tulsa Department of Human Rights NIA Award. Delores Dyer, voluntary programs coordinator, said *nia* is a Swahili word meaning to rebuild or restore. Randall, also a Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission member, received the award because of what she has done in the Indian community and for her efforts in returning Tulsa Indian community to greatness, Dyer said.

-- Randall and Mona ''Koko'' Roberts, community secretary, are the Creek Nation Festival Pow Wow coordinators.

Oklahoma City begins project

-- The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association is currently developing a five-lesson Mvskoke language course.

The lessons will consist of an audio tape and study manual and will be on sale for $50 each. The endeavor is an economic development project of the community. Weekly language classes are still being held at the community center at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. George Bunny and Liza Pena, both of Oklahoma City, are instructing the classes.

For more information, contact the community office at (405) 632-5872.

-- An Indian taco sale is scheduled July 11th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost will be $3.50.

The classes and taco sale are both being held at the community office, located at 711 S.W. 29th.

Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo 1992

Greetings from Principal Chief Bill S. Fife

I want to welcome everyone to the Creek Nation Festival '92 and to extend a special welcome to our senior citizens and visitors to our Creek Nation capital.

Nineteen ninety-two marks the beginning of a new era in Muscogee (Creek) Nation history and I would like to invite you to be a part of that new beginning.

This year has been designated the ''The Year of the Indian'' by President Bush and the state of Oklahoma.

People from all over our country will be attending our celebration. Each year over 10,000 people have come to our festival to watch and to participate in the different events. This year is also very special to me since this is the beginning of my tenure as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

During my tenure as Principal Chief, I am striving to develop and maintain a solid foundation. We must seek every opportunity to maintain the good will of the people we serve.

Our staff is committed to serving Creek citizens to the best of their ability and will do their share in making the Creek communities we serve, and the Creek Nation of which we are a part, a better place to live.

Bill Fife, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

I encourage each of you to join me in my endeavor to improve the Creek Nation. Enjoy all the activities of the Creek Nation Festival.

MVTO!

Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo executive committee: Bob Arrington, Donna Frank, Jimmy ''Bunny'' Hill, and Carney Roberts

Greetings from Second Chief Shelly Stubbs Crow

As second chief, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo.

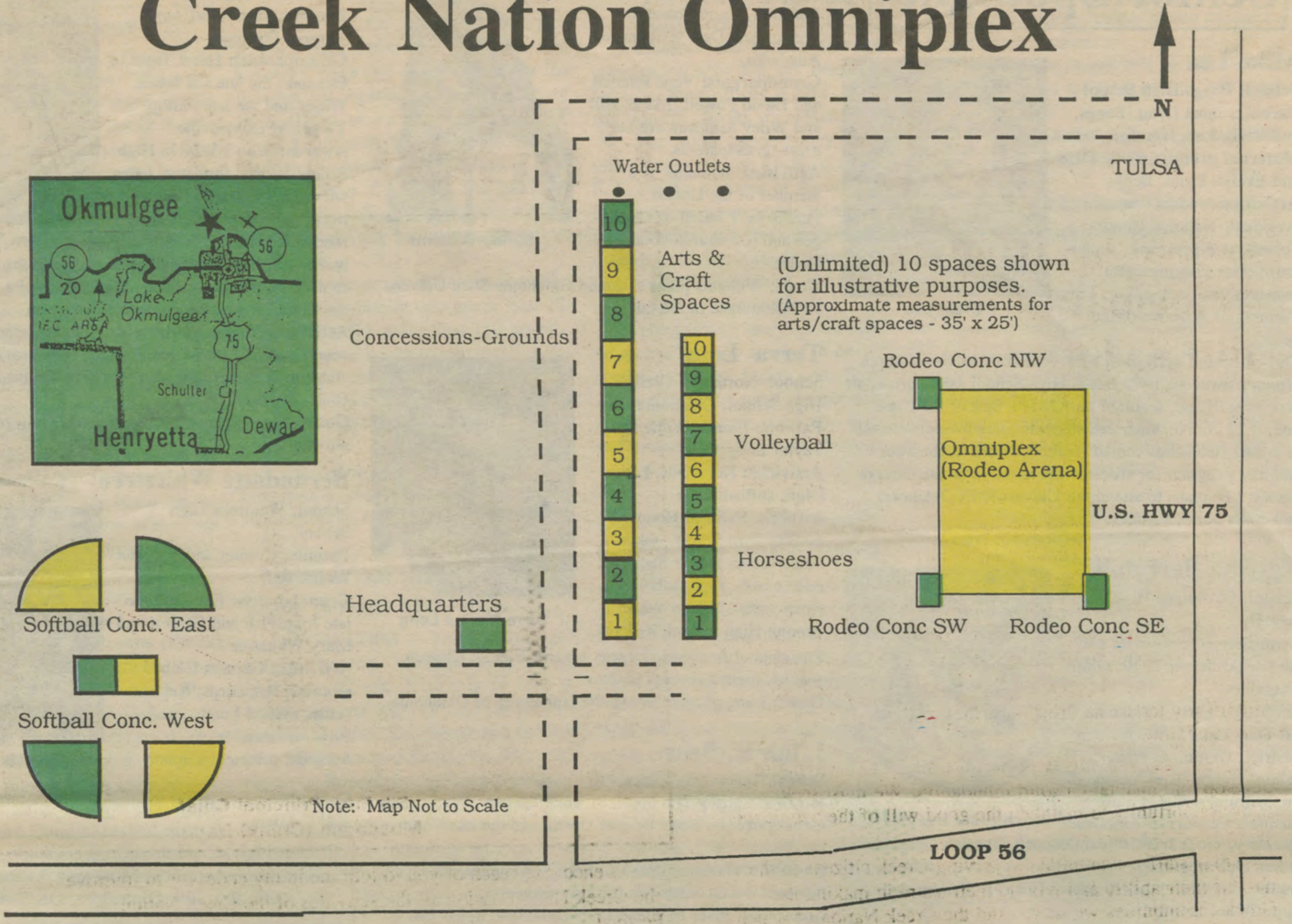
Historically and traditionally, festivals and ceremonies have had special meaning for the Creek/Yuchi people. These gatherings have fulfilled a special need by providing an opportunity to gather with family and friends. This also provides an opportunity for us to give thanks to our creator for our many blessings. By sharing the Creator's blessings with others, we can experience our own spiritual revitalization.

Again, I welcome everyone to the festivities to share this wonderful tradition.

MVTO!

Shelly Stubbs Crow
Second Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Creek Nation Omniplex


N
TULSA
Water Outlets
Arts & Craft Spaces
(Unlimited) 10 spaces shown for illustrative purposes.
(Approximate measurements for arts/craft spaces - 35' x 25')
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Concessions-Grounds
Volleyball
Horseshoes
Headquarters
Rodeo Conc NW
Omniplex (Rodeo Arena)
U.S. HWY 75
Rodeo Conc SW
Rodeo Conc SE
Softball Conc. East
Softball Conc. West
Note: Map Not to Scale
LOOP 56
Okmulgee
56
20
Lake Okmulgee
75
Schulter
Henryetta
Dewar

Tribal capitol complex located just east of U.S. Highway 75 and Loop 56

1992 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo schedule of events

-- Little olympics, **Harmon Stadium, 623 E. 12th, Okmulgee**, 8:30 a.m., June 19.

-- All-Indian Rodeo, June 19 and 20, at the **rodeo arena**. Opening ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m.

-- Men and womens' fast-pitch softball tournaments begin Friday, 6 p.m. at the **omniplex fields**.

-- All-Indian co-ed volleyball tournament June 19 and 20. The tournament begins Friday at 7 p.m.

-- All-Indian bowling tournament June 20 with squads beginning at 12 noon and 3 p.m. at the **Beeline Bowl, 1803 Wood Drive (U.S. 75 south), Okmulgee.**

-- All-Indian golf tournament begins June 20 at the Fountainhead State Park golf course. **Take U.S. Highway 75 south to Interstate 40. Take I-40 east to state highway 150. Follow 150 south to park.**

-- The first festival 5K run. This 3.1 mile course has been sanctioned by The Athletic Congress. The run begins east of the **Independent Agencies (mound) Building** at 7:30 a.m., June 20.

-- Childrens' games 10 a.m., June 20. Children between two and five-years-old can participate just **west of the Creek Rodeo Arena**. Prizes and ribbons awarded for every child that enters. No pre-registration required.

-- Intertribal pow wow June 20 at the **Okmulgee County Fairgrounds west of the tribal omniplex**. Gourd dancing begins at 3 p.m. Wardancing begins at 6 p.m.

-- Creek gospel singing June 20 and 21 beginning at 7 p.m. each night. The event will be located at the **south end of the omniplex**. Rev. John Buckner is coordinator. Rev. Eastman Factor is the master of ceremonies.

-- Elders games and honors program June 20 and 21. Arts and crafts exhibits, games, food bingo, and recognition of elders of the year at 2 p.m., June 21 in the **Independent Agencies (mound) Building auditorium.**

Senior Spotlight

Mike Lee

Craig Lee

School: Beggs High School
Parents: Janet Lynn, Beggs, and Craig Lee, Houston, Texas
Maternal grandparents: Dale and Evelyn Lynn, Beggs
Activities: student council president, National Honor Society vice-president, sophomore class vice-president, assistant yearbook editor, Future Farmers of America (three years)
Out-of-school activities: First Assembly of God Church
Honors/awards: 1992 Beggs High School salutatorian, all district split end, featured on KJRH's Best of the Class, one of 23 Native American students (nationwide) selected to attend Headlands Indian Health Careers' eight-week summer program for students interested in health careers
Goals: Lee plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and study pharmaceutics.

Katrina Berryhill,

Katrina Berryhill

School: Okmulgee High School
Grandparents: Rubylee and the late Anderson J. Berryhill, Okmulgee
Activities: band, Oklahoma All-Star Band 1991, Eastern District, Okmulgee High School Honor Band, outstanding instrumentalist, Future Business Leaders of America secretary, mock trial, student council, Spanish Club, and Indian club treasurer
Goals: Berryhill plans to attend Tulsa Jr. College and major in accounting.

Sunny Williams

Sunny Williams

School: Preston High School
Parents: Peggy Powell of Preston and Dale Williams of Anadarko
Grandparents: Vena Randall and David Powell, Mabel Hill and Wiley Sampson are her great- grandparents.
Activities: Williams is a member of the United Penecostal Church of Okmulgee and is a church youth leader.
Goals: Williams plans to attend Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee in the fall.

Terra Long

Terra Marina Long

School: Northwest Classen High School, Oklahoma City
Parents: Brenda Wolfe and Taylor Long
Activities: Key Club, Latin Club, softball team
Awards: National Honor Society (two years), Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, (two years), super scholar (four years), Who's Who Among High School Students, Presidential Academic Fitness Award, Ella D. Classen Award, ranked seventh in class
Goals: Long plans to attend the University of Oklahoma.

Lijah R. Bear

School: Dustin High School
Parents: Shirley Thompson of Rock Springs, Wyo.
Grandparents: Betty Bear of Dustin and the late Cherokee Thompson
Awards: Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee Small Business Occupations scholarship recipient
Goals: Bear plans to attend OSU-Okmulgee in the fall.

Pamela Gayle Yargee

Pam Yargee

School: Bowlegs High School
Parents: Tarpie and Amy Yargee, Bowlegs
Grandparents: Hazel Tiger, Okemah, the late Joe Jones, Winey and the late Phillip Yargee of Holdenville
Awards: Who's Who in High School Sports, four-year letter winner in basketball, one year track, pep club, 11th leading rebounder in Class A girls basketball, basketball defensive player of the year, football homecoming queen candidate, and a member of the Class 3A state runner-up softball team
Activities: Yargee has been active in basketball (four years), softball (three years), track (one year), and pep club (three years). She also served as the Bowlegs Indian Club Secretary.
Goals: Yargee plans to attend Bacone College and study nursing.

Bernadette Whitetree

Bernadette Whitetree

School: Wetumka High School
Parents: Chester and Virginia Whitetree
Grandparents: Edna and the late John Fish and Earnest and Mary Whitetree
Activities: German Club reporter, flag corps, Keywannettes, visited London and Paris on school trips
Awards: principal's honor roll
Goals: Whitetree plans to attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Miami.

Submit high school or college graduate information and photos to the Muscogee Nation News, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447

Couples exchange springtime nuptials

Bernard-Kelly

HENRYETTA -- Alicia JoAnn Bernard and Washington Kelly Jr. exchanged marriage vows April 25 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Johnson of Henryetta. The Rev. John Buckner preformed the ceremony. The couple will reside in Henryetta.

(photo by Julia Berryhill)

Alicia and Washington Kelly with Rev. John Buckner

Crook-Berryhill

BEGGS -- Michael Dean Berryhill and Kara Melissa Crook were wed at the Crook Family home May 2, 1992.

The couple were united in marriage by the groom's father, Thomas Berryhill Jr.

Parents of the groom are Jean Wacoche Berryhill of Lawrence, Kan. and Janice and Thomas Berryhill Jr. of Duck Creek. His maternal grandmother is Elizabeth Thompson Porter of Okmulgee. Paternal grandparents are Rev. Thomas Sr. and the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill of the Wilson community.

The bride's parents are DeAnna and Wendell Cook of Beggs. Her maternal grandparents are Roy and Eula Swanson of Beggs. Her maternal great-grandmother is Nattie Wagoner of Okmulgee. Lillie Crook of Beggs, is her paternal grandmother.

The couple is residing in Beggs.

Mike and Kara Berryhill

Tanner-Harjo

TWIN HILLS -- Henry Harjo and Lena Tanner were married May 2 at Concharty Methodist Church. Uniting the couple in matrimony was Pastor Newman Frank.

The couple's parents are Christine and the late Henry Harjo, Henryetta, and Rider and Stella Whitecotton, Sand Springs.

The couple resides in the Duck Creek area.

Leah and Henry Harjo

Society briefs

Brown places second in pageant

TULSA -- Lloyd Dawn Brown won two second place awards in the recent Tulsa Baby Pageant for beauty in her age group. She also received two gold seal diplomas for beauty and health. Her parents are Jeanice and Floyd Brown. Grandparents are Dorothy and the late Jeff Lee of Kellyville and Florence and Felix Brown of Okmulgee.

Lloyd Dawn Brown

Haynes observes 16th birthday

OKMULGEE – J.C. Haynes of Okmulgee, celebrated his 16th birthday on May 1. Haynes is the son of Felix and Gloria Haynes and grandson of Annie and the late Jay Haynes of Okmulgee. He is also the great-great nephew of Rev. Roley Haynes.

J.C. Haynes

Muscogee students excel at school

Brandi Yahola

Toni Bradley

Joshua Barnett

Ali Hounarmand

Yahola makes honor roll

OKMULGEE -- Brandi Sharee Yahola has been listed on the A and B honor roll throughout the 1991-92 academic year at Westside Elementary School, Okmulgee. She has also received numerous awards in her Indian education class. She enjoys playing ball and riding bicycles. Yahola, six, is the daughter of Asi and Sydney Grace Yahola of Okmulgee. She is the granddaughter of Allen and Gloria Jones of Holdenville, and Thomas Yahola of Wetumka. Great grandparents are Tom and Leila Barnes of Wetumka.

Indians lead Bowlegs softball squad

BOWLEGS -- The Bowlegs High School Lady Bisons were the 1992 Class 3A State softball runner-ups. Among the 13-girl team, 10 were Johnson-O'Malley students. They were: Pamela and Esther Yargee, Jennifer Mitchell, Bernita Coker, Heather and Feather Factor, Amy Harjochee, and Sean Welch. Pamela Yargee was the only senior on the team. The team has been playing softball for three years.

Bradley named to honors academy

MUSKOGEE -- Toni Bradley, a ninth-grade student at West Junior High School, Muskogee, has been named as an All-American Scholar by the U.S. Achievement Academy.

Requirements are that the student maintain at least a 3.3 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be nominated by a school sponsor.

Bradley was nominated by her algebra teacher, Gene Madding.

Bradley is also student council vice-president, cheerleader mascot, a recipient of the Presidential Academic Fitness Award, a member of the tennis team, a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society, and the National Honor Society.

Bradley is the daughter of Sam and Peggy Bradley of Muskogee. She is the granddaughter of Ray and Esta DePriest of Muskogee, and Virginia and the late Ralph Bradley of Muskogee.

Barnett selected by achievement academy

BRISTOW -- The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Joshua Barnett has been recognized for academic achievement as a United States National Honor Roll Award winner.

Barnett attends Bristow Junior High School. He will appear in the U.S. Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, published nationally.

He is the son of Justin and Teresa Barnett. His maternal grandparents are Bert and Marie Wilson. Paternal grandparents are Joe and Rachel Barnett of Bristow. Paternal great grandmother is Nicey Wilson of Okmulgee.

Barnett has an estimated overall grade point average constituting an A. He has also received awards in baseball, football, honor roll, and track.

Hounarmand receives reading award

MOORE -- Ali Hounarmand is an 11-year-old fifth-grader at Sky Ranch Elementary School in Moore. She is an honor roll student and has recently received awards for reading 100 books and outstanding citizenship.

Hounarmand is one-half Creek and one-half Iranian. She is active in the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association and is currently enrolled in the language class. She is the daughter of Tsiannina and Mike Hounarmand and the granddaughter of Deliah and the late Lewis Buckley.

George is first runner-up at pageant

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Ganiene Lois George, daughter of Gene and Carol George, Holdenville, was the first runner-up in the miss pre-teen division of the East Coast Pageant held May 17 in Oklahoma City.

George will now compete in the Cities of America National Pageant, Jan. 2 through 7 in Orlando, Fla.

The George family would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who sponsored their daughter in the pageant:

Nora Davis George, Roy Reed George, Raylene Penn, Adnes Al-Dabbagh, Janet Lou Davis, Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief Bill Fife, Muscogee (Creek) National Council representatives, Ray Barnett, Dwayne Lowe, Clay Pettis, Gordon Allen, Harold Heath, Butner and Butner, Jack Booth Insurance, Jerry Lipes Wrecker Service, Ottis Farris, Earl Farris, Merl Clift Real Estate, David's Mini Mart, John Gibbs Motor Company, Holdenville Finance Tower Loans, S and H Pharmacy, Terry Phillips, Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee Indian Club, Tom Carroll, Vernon O'Kelly, and Mary Monetatche.

Ganiene George

George is now trying to raise $1,500 for her and her chaperone to attend the Orlando pageant. For more information, contact the Georges at (405) 379-5578 or write Rt. 1, Box 213, Holdenville, OK 74848.

Three vie for title at Miss Creek Nation pageant

OKMULGEE -- Four judges will select one of three contestants to be the first Miss Creek Nation.

"Since there is no rodeo queen this year, it was decided to have a Miss Creek Nation rather than a princess or a rodeo queen," said Anita Freeman, a member of the Miss Creek Nation Pageant Committee.

Lisa Checotah

Contestants are:

-- Lisa Checotah, 16, of Okmulgee. Her parents are Everett and Etta Checotah;

-- Kenda Lowe, 15, of Holdenville. Her parents are Tochee and Dan Narcomey; and

-- Leigh Ann Downing, 16, of Calvin. She is the daughter of Josh and Jacqueline Downing.

This year's pageant was scheduled June 13 at the Creek Nation Independent Agencies (mound) Auditorium at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee.

The winner received a silver crown, one dozen roses, and a cash prize of $250.00. The first runner-up received roses and a cash prize of $150.00, the second runner-up received roses and a cash prize of $100.00. Other gifts and a consolation prize were awarded.

Kenda Lowe

Each contestant was judged in five categories: talent, poise/personality, traditional dress, essay, and interview question. Point totals were assessed for each category. Balloting was done by four judges.

Miss Creek Nation is the official goodwill ambassador for the Creek Nation. During her year reign she will represent the Creek Nation at tribal activities, intertribal, and public events. She will serve as a role model for Creek students and visit area youth meetings and schools.

Other committee members include: Nettie Harjo, Chiquita McNac, Pat Morgan, Jerri On-The-Hill, and Janet Wise.

Former Creek Nation Princesses Kristi Herndon of Shawnee and Janita Screechowl Merrit of San Diego, Calif. attended the pageant.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

TERRY DUROSSETTE

MUSKOGEE -- Terry Durossette, 73, of Muskogee, formerly of Haskell, died May 31 at Muskogee Regional Medical Center. Services were held June 3 at the Haskell High School Gym. Rev. George Miller officiated the service.

Durossette was born Feb. 23, 1919 to Jess and Lydia Durossette. He lived most of his life in the Haskell area. He attended and graduated from Haskell High School.

In 1942 he enlisted in the United States Air Force. In 1942 he served in England and North Africa. In 1952-54 he served in the National Guard unit to Korea. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and was discharged as first lieutenant.

He was involved in the family business, Durossette Drilling, and later worked with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, retiring in 1985.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; a son, Ronnie; and a brother, Clyde ''Fuss'' Durossette.

He is survived by: his wife, Eldee, of the home; one son, David Durossette of Grove; one step-son John Standridge of Muskogee; one daughter, Suzanne Thompson of Fort Collins, Colo.; two brothers, Jess Durossette of Haskell, and Cecil ''Smokie'' Durossette of Tyler, Texas; two sisters, Margarette Durossette of Haskell, and Juanita Spencer of Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; 10 grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews.

Pallbearers were Chris Durossette, Rod Durossette, Mike Spencer, Jimmy Radeke, Rocky Morton and Henry LeBourgeois.

JOHN BILLEY

CROMWELL -- Funeral services for John Billey, 68, were held May 26 at the Little Quasardy Church near Cromwell. He died May 22 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City.

He was born June 20, 1923 in Okfuskee County. He was married to Leah Fixico June 3, 1947 in Okemah and was a World War II veteran.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Pilot and Lena Knight Billey; and one son, Glen Lee Billey.

Survivors include: his wife, Leah Billey, of the home; three sons, Johnny Billey of Paden, Marcus Billey of Fairgrove, Mo., and Jackie Billey of Springfield, Mo.; one daughter, Lena Deckard of Fordland, Mo.; one brother, Able Billey of Parkland Nursing Home in Prague; one sister, Josephine Wolfe of Tulsa; one aunt, Lucy Gibson of Tahlequah; nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Interment was in the Little Quasardy Cemetery.

MUNNIE BEAR BLUFORD

BRISTOW -- Funeral services for Munnie Bear Bluford, 99, of Bristow, were held May 16 at Grant Chapel with the Revs. John Lowe and Jack Davis officiating. The wake service was held May 15. Bluford was born in 1893 at Nuyaka.

Munnie Bluford

She married Johnson Bluford in the early 1950s. She was a resident of the Bristow area and a member of Grant Chapel.

Survivors include: two daughters. Lena Bluford of Bristow and Lucille John of Muskogee; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; several nieces; and nephews.

Interment was in the Grant Chapel Cemetery.

LONEY FRYE

HENRYETTA -- Funeral services for Loney Frye, 77, of Henryetta, were held May 13 at Yardeka Baptist Church.

Frye was born March 14, 1915 in McIntosh County.

Frye was a U.S. Army veteran who saw combat duty at Battle of Rahim and in the European Theater.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Sam and Leechie Taylor Frye; four brothers, Sandy Frye, Sarty Frye, Roman Frye and Noah Frye; and one sister, Bessie Frye Fife.

Survivors include: two daughters, Betty Frye of Henryetta and Pauline Frye of Checotah; two brothers, Harbie Frye and Sam Frye Jr., both of Henryetta; and four grandchildren.

Wake services were held May 12 at Yardeka Baptist Church.

Interment was in the Yardeka Harjo Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bobbie Frye, Roley Frye, James Frye, Samuel Frye, Roley Thompson, and Orlando Benally.

FLORA HENDRIX

OKMULGEE -- Funeral services for Flora Hendrix, 97, of Natura community, were held May 23.

Hendrix was born April 14, 1895, in Indian Territory to Sherman and Eliza Brown on their allottment.

She was married to Jim Hendrix and raised their two children, James Robert Hendrix of San Antonio, Texas and Helen Ballard of Okmulgee. She lived at Natura for approximately 90 years.

Flora Hendrix

Rev. Ed Gilstrap conducted the graveside service at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

Survivors include: her daughter, Helen Ballard; and son, James R. Hendrix; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and many great-great grandchildren.

MCKINLEY PORTER

COWETA -- Funeral services for McKinley Porter, 87, of Coweta, were held May 16 at Cedar Creek Baptist Church with the Revs. Jimmy Chalakee and Jim Kerr officiating.

Porter died May 13 at the Coweta Manor Nursing Home.

Survivors include: a brother, Rev. Barney Porter of Claremore; and five nieces, Naomi Baldridge and Elsie Copeland of Tulsa, Sophie Lowe and Mary Chalakee of Coweta, and Betty Campbell of Oakhurst.

Porter was preceded in death by: his parents, Lewis Porter and Elsie Porter Powell; two sisters, Nannie Chalakee and Ethel Bemo.

Pallbearers were Joe Chalakee, Johnny Chalakee, Kenneth Childers, Kenneth Chalakee, Cebon Miller, and Mike Berryhill.

BENNIE ROY COKER

TULSA -- Funeral services were held for Bennie Roy Coker, 65, of Tulsa, May 30. The first service was held in the Nogales Baptist Church in Tulsa. A second service was held at Buckeye Baptist Church with Rev. Boots Fixico officiating. Coker died May 26 in Tulsa.

He was born Dec. 12, 1926 in Bearden, and his occupation was a brakeshop foreman. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. He married Geneva Cooper on Dec. 15, 1960 in Tulsa.

Preceding him in death were: his parents, Gibson B. and Emma Davis Coker; two brothers, Lawrence and Jessie Coker; one sister, Lucy Hale; and one son, Bennie, Jr.

Survivors include: his wife, Geneva Coker, of the home; one son James Alan Coker, also of the home; one brother, Thomas Coker of Tulsa; and one granddaughter, Kimberely Fenton.

Active Pallbearers were Jackie Cooper, Billy Cooper, Floyd Cooper, Kenneth Cooper, Jimmy Hicks, and Tiney Hale. Interment was in the Holatha Cemetery.

DONALD LEE HICKS

MUSKOGEE -- Donald Lee Hicks, 30, a resident of Muskogee, and grandson to Marjorie Berryhill, Okmulgee, died recently following an accidental drowning. He was born May 16, 1962 in Tulsa.

He was preceded in death by: his father, Sam D. Hicks; and grandfather, Jeff Berryhill.

He is survived by: his wife of two months, Patricia of the home; a daughter, Candace of Charleston, S.C.; two step-children, Michael and Shalla Washington; his mother, Patsy ''Pat'' Bohannon; step-father, Michael F. Bohannon of Delray Beach, Fla.; two brothers, Deryl Hicks of Nacogoches, Texas and Dennis Hicks of Charleston, S.C.; paternal grandparent, Essie Kerby of Wagoner; and one aunt, Pamela Ross of Broken Arrow.

Memorial services were held May 30, 1992 in Muskogee, with Rev. Steve Beed officiating. The body was cremated, with ashes being buried in Tallahassee Family Cemetery.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Koweta Indian Community Center and the Creek Nation for the money and the food. Thanks also to Cedar Creek Baptist Church for all the cooking they did. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

Sophie Lowe, Naomi Baldridge, and nieces of McKinley Porter

10. Espoken, tecvkkvyvtte, Pucase ofvn ce yekcvkekvs, momet en yekcetv en yekce ofvn.
11. Setepokv Hesaketvmese *est'emat* omvlkvn vchoyvks, Puyvfekcv Holwakat em mvkerretv vnrvpen svpaklatske tayvret.
12. Catv, enavpeswv tepakan ete'n cevlhoyet omekokv, momis ohfvnkvlke vnrvpet, yekcetv ocakat vnrvpet, yvmv ekvnv en yomucke evpvyvlken vnrvpet, en cevlhoyet os.
13. Monkv setepokv Hesaketvmese est'emat omvlkvn cvwepvks, nettv holwvhokat omof nake estomis vbrapatske tayvret, momet nak omvlkvn momecatskof, svpaklatske tayvres.
14. Monkv svpvklvkes, ce tetackvn mehenwvn es wvnawicet, fvccetv hokpe-svrvnakvn vlumhicet,
15. Momet opunvkv-herv herkv emetetaketvn ce'letaken vtehvket
Efesvlke 6:10-15

Religion briefs

Snake Creek hosts June singing

BIXBY -- Snake Creek Baptist Church Number One is holding a gospel singing beginning at 7:30 p.m., June 27.

From Beeline Grocery Store, 221st and U.S. Highway 75, drive seven and one-half miles east to dead end road, turn left and follow the road to the church. From Bixby, drive south on Memorial, pass Allen Ranch on 196th St. Continue south for one-half mile to 201st, turn left, drive east one mile and then turn right and drive one and one-half mile to church turn off. From highway 16, turn north on Memorial, drive seven miles, turn right on gravel road and follow signs to church.

Buckeye hosts annual singing

MASON -- Buckeye Creek Baptist Church will hold it's 14th Annual Gospel Singing, July 3 and 4th. The Singing begins at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5 to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Emcees will be Robert Jones of Muscogee Sounds and Eastman Factor of New Life Praise. Location is six miles west of Okemah.

Grave Creek hosts revival

HICHITA – Grave Creek Baptist Church is holding a revival June 29 through July 4 with evangelist Christopher Harjo preaching. Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Thewahle to host singing

DUSTIN -- Thewahle Baptist Church is hosting an all Indian hymn singing July 4, from 7 to 11 p.m. All churches are encouraged to attend, as they will be called upon to lead some Mvskoke hymns. Other tribes are also invited to sing their tribal hymns. Concessions will be available. The church is located two and one-half miles northeast of Dustin.

Hickory Ground hosts singing

YARDEKA -- Hickory Ground Number Two is hosting a gospel singing at 7 p.m., June 20. The event's emcee will be Berryhill's Quartet. The church is located south of Henryetta and south of Salem community.

Notice of filing petition for name change

To Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that Paul Clay West has filed in the above court a petition to have his name changed as follows, to-wit: From Paul Clay West to Carl Clay West: and that the same will be heard by the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the Creek Nation Tribal Courthouse at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 13th day of July, 1992, at 4:00 o'clock p.m.; and that any person may file a written protest in the case, prior to the date set for the hearing.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, District Court Judge

Tribe to lead sovereignty battle

continued from page 3

Creek stand against the state.

"I received several letters and (facsmile trnasmissions) and I know the administration did too, saying they will stand with us," Wilson said.

Wilson told the National Council in a May 26 special session that the tribe should never negotiate tribal sovereignty.

"You're only as sovereign as you act," Wilson told the Council. "We have a chance to take the lead (among other tribes) on this issue. There are a lot of western tribes that are looking to bridge the gap with eastern tribes."

At its May 30 session, the Council approved a course of action with the adoption of NCA 92-90.

The bill creates a litigation and lobbying fund with a two-cent tax per pack of cigarettes sold in licensed smokeshops.

The temporary tax went into effect June 15 and is to defray the costs of litigation, lobbying, public relations, and other costs associated with the effort.

Wilson said he had inquiries from non-Indians about contributing to the fund. "We'll take donations from anyone in this case," Wilson said.

Wilson said he, along with Leah Ware, Muscogee Nation attorney general, are working with an intertribal committee to develop a strategy involving several tribes. Okmulgee District Representative George Tiger was appointed to a research committee.

Fife says he is confident the tribe is right and will negotiate only when what is proposed benefits the tribe.

"We've been in court many times and won," Fife said. "I believe we will win this time too."

Women do have roles

contiuned from page 2

women than men voted. This is a difference of 20 percent. In our tribe alone, the women out number the men in voting.

I would like to state that our tribe has a lot of well qualified men to lead our people into the year 2000. These men are able to work with women to better the tribe without reservations or problems.

Our National Council has 31 members, which includes 25 men and six women. This is about equivalent to the national average of women leaders in the U.S.

The women on the National Council are:

Irene Cleghorn, Pat Kelly and Okemah Randall - Tulsa District; Mae Jackson, Judy Roberts - Okfuskee District; and Helen Chupco - Muskogee District.

These women work very hard on issues to better serve our people and we are very proud of their efforts. They have definitely gone into public service not for themselves, but for our people.

Contract expenditure report

Per the general P.L. 93-638 contract provisions as stated in Article II, section 207 (c), the following monthly expenditure report is being provided. The figures reflect what has been expended and not balances.

A more detailed expenditure report can be reviewed at the office of contracts at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Capitol Complex in Okmulgee.

Expenditures of federal grants for May 1992

Job Training Partnership Act -	**$31,050**
Administration on aging -	**$24,206**
Head start -	**$39,707**
Community services block grant -	**$5,790**
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program -	**$1,928**
Title IV B, childrens' services -	**$1,709**
Homeless Assistance Act of 1992 -	**$7.094**
1992 food distribution -	**$1,300**
DIAC energy assistance -	**$28,508**
Headstart U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reimburse -	**$7,717**
Bureau of Indian Affairs adult education -	**$3,325**
BIA aid to tribal government -	**$5,360**
BIA community services -	**$24,216**
BIA higher education -	**$3,938**
BIA natural resources -	**$21,247**
BIA adult vocational training -	**$26,664**
BIA employment assistance -	**$17,920**
BIA Johnson O'Malley early childhood -	**$4,440**
BIA agriculture -	**$10,003**
BIA social services -	**$26,472**
BIA housing -	**$45,124**
BIA real estate appraisals -	**$6,939**
BIA real estate services -	**$10,659**
BIA Indian child welfare -	**$18,726**
BIA business development grant -	**0**
BIA training and technical assistance workshop -	**$4,502**
Tribal judicial and court -	**$3,378**
Law enforcement program -	**$943**
Child abuse initiative -	**$2,548**
Eufaula dormitory -	**$79,450**
Community health representatives -	**$39,248**

Creek named vice-president

continued from page 5

people and community, as well as be role models for other Indian entrepreneurs," says Russell. "It's time for Indian people to show the spirit that is inherent in our culture."

Feathergraphix is an example of Indian spirit and sustenance. Starting as a home-based business, the company has grown and has a solid list of clients, including tribal entities, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Cummings said now is the time for Indian entrepreneurs. "Now, more than ever, there is a future. If you take the sustenance and spirit of Indian people, as well as education and professionalism, we can easily walk in both worlds. From our elders, we've learned to maintain that cultural balance."

Russell and Cummings both spend time talking to Indian students and business people hoping to encourage and promote their people.

Feathergraphix is an 100 percent Indian-owned business based in Tulsa.

Births

Taylor Armstrong

WETUMKA – Taylor Alex Armstrong was born May 23 at Wetumka General Hospital to Sheila Armstrong. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 and one-quarter inches long at birth.

The father is Alex Deer. Maternal grandparents are Patsy Armstrong of Prue and James Armstrong of Wetumka. Maternal great-grandparents are Waitie and Emma Fish. Paternal grandmother is Molesia Deer. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barns.

Taylor Armstrong

Bible aware of heritage and police responsibility

continued from page 3

chased the two pair of shoes which were the same brand and size.

"It was very emotional there because they finally knew their mother had been found."

In order to make positive identification, Bible requested her chiropractic x-rays, which fortunately included an x-ray shot of her chest to jawline.

"The chiropractor (x-ray) is really what (solved) it. The dental (x-rays are) what did it."

Bible deposited the rings and x-rays at the state medical examiners office on Jan. 29. On Jan. 30, the office notified him that Pierce had positively been identified.

Bible said the victim's family was not vengeful, but "grateful to find her, put her to rest, and to (learn) the outcome of her demise. I feel for the family, but I'm glad they can go on."

Killer a fellow Sequoyah alumni and family acquaintance

The alleged murderer -- a 36-year-old Choctaw man with a history of blackouts. In the early morning of hours of July 5, 1986, Forrest K. Wade became involved in an altercation which resulted in the brutal murders of two men. One victim was killed with a hammer blow to the head while the other was disemboweled with a knife. Bible speculates he fled the area on foot, arriving at the Hillcrest Medical Center parking lot just as Pierce was leaving her ill father's bedside.

After abducting Pierce, Wade shot the 40-year-old woman in the left temple and disposed of her body northwest of U.S. Highway 75 and 141st St. Because all evidence against him is circumstantial, Wade has not been convicted of her murder and probably never will be, Bible said.

Convicted of the double homocide in 1988, Wade was caught in Virginia and extradited to Oklahoma. He is currently serving time on death row at the Oklahoma State Penitentary, McAlester. Still searching for answers, Bible went to death row to interview Wade in March.

Hearing all of the gates close behind you on death row makes one feel "a prisoner just as they are," said Bible.

Bible heard the prison warden instruct an employee to put arm and leg shackles on Wade.

"I had this picture of this monster!"

Bible's fears were quelled upon meeting the soft spoken Choctaw.

"We talked for an hour -- about off-the-wall things."

Wade, like Bible, is a Sequoyah Indian Boarding School graduate and had even attended school and played sports with Bible's relatives.

"(While) sitting there talking with him, I had no fear of him whatsoever. He's just got a problem. Now if he'd been drinking...."

Bible believes Wade's chances of being convicted of Pierce's murder are "real slim."

"Basically, he told me he didn't remember, but he didn't think he did it."

Because Wade has a history of blackouts, Bible thinks the death row inmate really doesn't remember having committed her murder.

"Of course in my mind, in my heart, I think he did it, but that's not enough for a conviction."

Bible said Wade will be appealing his death sentence to be commuted for life without parole.

"When (his appeal is denied), I'm going to go back and talk to him. He won't have (anything) to lose."

Bible contends Ward is a prime example of what drugs can do to Indian people, although Bible doesn't profess to being perfect.

"I haven't been sober all of my life, but I'm past that phase now."

Glenpool citizens contend Bible is racially biased

Bible said he has often been called prejudiced from both Indian and caucasian Glenpool citizens. Bible told of a call he recived from an irate Indian mother. She called Bible, complaining he was hard on Indian kids and threatened to report him to Creek tribal officials. In turn, Bible contends non-Indians accuse him of being easy on Indian kids.

Is he harder on Indians? Bible readily admits that he is tougher on Indian offenders.

"I'm Indian, my kids are Indian, my family's Indian. Your projecting yourself like like white people want you to (when you get into trouble) and I'm going to stay on your back," Bible says to Indian offenders.

"When one Indian screws up, every (Indian is) labeled around here," he said. "It gives the white community more cause for 'I told you so's'."

Bible said 14 to 17-year-olds are his biggest problem. He admits to dreading the summer -- when these kids are out on the streets and in trouble more often.

He believes that many juvenile offenders come from homes in which the parents offer little supervision and guidance.

If parents don't care, the children think no one cares -- thus promoting low self esteem, he reasons.

The father of four, encourages all parents to:

-- know their children's friends;

-- know the friends' families;

-- be certain children are where they say they will be; and

-- know the family's history.

Bible helps work Glenpool through growing pains

In 1978, Bible began his law enforcement career in Glenpool. From 1979 to 1981, he was a City of Jenks police officer. He returned to Glenpool in 1981.

When he began his tenure as chief of police, the city had a population of 1,500. Today, the city has more than quintupled, its population with figures around 7,700, Bible said.

How does he stay on top of a rapidly growing community?

"You get to know the people. A small town is convenient: you know who the bad guys are, you know who the thieves are, you know who the drunks are. You can almost predict what's going to happen."

Bible receives professional police investigator's award

GLENPOOL -- Larry Bible Sr. has been recently named a recipient of the Association of Professional Police Investigators President's Award.

The award program provides the national association's members the opportunity to recognize the outstanding performance of fellow investigators.

Bible will appear on the cover of the Stafford, Texas-based association's magazine, *The Police Investigator*, volume three, number fourteen (August). The president's award, as well as the magazine, is issued quarterly.

Glenpool city manager Dan Gibson nominated Bible for the award. He is the second award-winner from Oklahoma and the first Native American recipient nationwide, said Tom Smith, APPI president.

The APPI's five officers selected Bible out of 300 nominees nationwide. Smith said Bible was selected because he solved the crime he went beyond the call of duty, as well as traditional methods, to solve the Pierce murder.

Bible, 40, was raised in the Tulsa area. He is the son of JoAnn and the late Andy Bible of Glenpool, a former Tulsa District National Council representativeGlenpool. After his father declined to run for re-election in 1982, Bible ran for the seat, won, and has retained it since.

He resides in Glenpool with his wife, Shelly, and children, Jared, Gabriel, Andrea, and Larry Jr. His favorite pastime is loading up his boat and going fishing.

"I used to play ball, but since I'm in the over 40 group now...."

Coming next month, in the July issue of The Muscogee Nation News:

- Poarch Creeks receive permission to mitigate old Hickory Ground

- Muscogee (Creek) Nation makes history with its justice system

- Festival wrap-up

- Health care system review

- Legislative overview

- How they voted

no seal

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Address correction requested

Volume 21, Issue 7 P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 July 1992, 12 Pages

High winds rip through Glenpool, cause $3 million damage

Several tribal agencies involved in cleanup

stories by Jim Wolfe
MNN Editor

GLENPOOL — High winds and heavy rains caused extreme damage to homes and businesses in this Tulsa suburb June 19. Several mutual help homes were destroyed, displacing families, as well as damaging businesses.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Creek Nation Housing Authority of Oklahoma, and the American Red Cross sent representatives to assist those affected families.

Dan Gibson, Glenpool city manager, estimated the total damage to the community at $3 million.

There were no major storm-related injuries reported.

"(Weather authorities) called it straight winds," Gibson said of the storm, "But I'm becoming more convinced everyday that we had some kind of tornadic activity because of the extensive damage."

Joe Jackson, executive director of the Creek Nation Housing Authority, said 157 insurance claims were filed on mutual help homes, with 118 in the Glenpool area, following the storm.

"Twenty-three homes received extensive damage," Jackson said. "We anticipate moving some families back into their homes as early as (July 13)."

please see AGENCIES..., page 11

photo by Gerald Wofford

Officials praise cooperative efforts

GLENPOOL — The response to a June 19 storm, that caused $3 million damage in Glenpool, has been praised for the cooperation exhibited between several different agencies.

Don Gibson, Glenpool city manager, said the restoration and cleanup efforts were "marvelous."

"Everybody involved contributed," Gibson said. "This is the kind of thing that shows the resiliency of the people affected and the concern of the (agencies)."

Several tribal agencies as well as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Veterans' Administration located temporary offices in Glenpool to ease the transition to recovery.

Joe Jackson, executive director of the Creek Nation

please see PRAISE..., page 11

Hospital making changes to reach more patients with better services

by Jim Wolfe
MNN Editor

OKEMAH - Change is the operative term for the Creek Nation Community Hospital.

Since 1991, there has been change from the top down to the physical property of the 35-bed hospital.

The most signifcant change is attitudinal reflected in the intensity of Alan Harjo, the hospital adminstrator.

Harjo, Creek, is proud of the improvement in service delivery and the increase in revenues.

The telephone system is improved. The accounting system is more detailed. The collections of third party payments have increased. On staff is a patient advocate. Employees are better trained. Equipment is state-of-the-art.

Still, the hospital suffers from an image problem. Harjo and Lyndell Adair, the adminstrator assistant, believe such a reputation is because people are confused about the services that can be delievered.

When people are hurt or sick, they are generally not in the mood to try and understand policy and procedure.

Yet Harjo remains proud of the increased revenues from various sources, including third party payments that have allowed improvements in overall service.

The renovation of the x-ray lab and the installation of the new x-ray machine has reduced patient risk and costs.

Tom Gaylor, the director of radiology, says the new machine greatly reduces the amount of radiation exposure to the patient.

Style

"We're also able to do a more complete diagnosis," Gayler said.

please see HOSPITAL..., page 12

Festival attracts largest crowd ever; special section inside

OKMULGEE - High winds and rain were no deterrent for the more than 12,000 people that attended the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo held June 19 through 21.

Festival committee secretary Donna Frank said this year's festival attendance can be attributed to planning, the overflow of the Okmulgee Pecan Festival, and a new a tribal administration.

"The festival continues to grow and be a big success," Frank said. "It takes a lot of people working together to make something like the festival successful."

Other committee members include: Carney Roberts of Okemah, chair; Bob Arrington of Sapulpa; and Bunny Hill of Eufaula.

Inside is a special pull-out section of festival results and photos.

Letters to the Editor

Texas professor encourages understanding

Editor:

Recently David Lewis came to the University of North Texas to speak to my class about Mvskoke religion. This is the second year he has agreed to speak to a class on this subject. The students were as interested and responsive this year as they were last year. They were very impressed with Lewis and with the Mvskoke ways he described. If I understand Lewis right, the medicine he practices and some of his knowledge of religion is not known to all Mvskoke people.

I am writing to the Mvskoke people because there are no Mvskoke students in the class I teach. I hope that my students have not had more of an opportunity to learn about the traditional medicine ways. As an outsider, I would not expect to understand your rich and important traditions as one of you would, but I can appreciate their importance and wish that they not be allowed to die.

As an anthropologist, I have studied the traditions of people all around the world and I am greatly saddened when I learn that one of those traditions I found vital has been lost forever. The world can not afford this. Such traditions should live on and to live they need to be known by the people. While, as an outsider, I have no right to make a request of the people, I hope that the communities will take advantage of the opportunity to see to it that the knowledge Lewis has about medicine ways lives on.

I would like to thank Lewis for taking the time to come to speak to my class. Without question, it was a very valuable experience for my students. I would like to thank the Mvskoke people for continuing their ways as a living tradition.

Dr. Ann Jordan, Denton, Texas

Graduate wants to write history

Editor:

On May 2, I graduated from the University of Tulsa. This dream wouldn't have come true for me without the help and financial aid I received from my tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I am a writer. Because of the tribe's help, I am now a T.U. alumnus and much more likely to be recognized for my abilities. I am so grateful for everything that I hardly know where to begin. But one thing I know I can do is to use the education I have received to benefit my people.

I have stumbled on one way to do this. I have been approached by an intermediary about writing stories to sell in Japan, stories about American Indians. It seems the Japanese are fascinated with this aspect of American culture. They love to hear about us. I can live with this. But, I want to make sure they hear the truth, not some hyped malarkey written by the media about "American savages" or the Dances-with-wolves-noble-savages. I would like to write about real people with real stories, stories about life and living. What was life like for your grandmother and grandfather?

I am calling for your stories, mine are not enough. I would like to share any profits I might make with whomever takes advantage of this offer. Contact me at 5335 E. 17th St., Tulsa, OK 74112. Let's make sure our stories get told.

Carolyn Beeson, Tulsa

Second speaker appeals for support of amendment to reduce tribal Council

Editors ~~As~~ you may know, I have introduced legislation to reduce the number of representatives on the Muscogee National Council and would like to solicit your support to get this legislation passed.

My rationale for this legislation is quite simple. First, this legislation was introduced on behalf of a large number of Muscogee citizens who have commented to me that this needs to be done. Second, as you may know, the National Council budget for fiscal year 1992 exceeds $450,000 and is projected to exceed $500,000 for fiscal year 1993.

I believe that we can reduce the burden of financial expense to the tribe by reducing the number of National Council representatives.

A third reason includes the method of one person, one vote concept. My legislation would allow the representation on the National Council to be fixed at a number of twenty-four representatives which would be apportioned out based on the individual district population. I believe this would achieve both the reduction of the number of National Council representatives and provide adequate district representation.

In accordance to the Muscogee Nation Constitution, an amendment to the Muscogee Constitution first takes an ordinance of the Muscogee National Council. I introduced this legislation to give you, the Muscogee citizen, an opportunity to decide this issue.

Please assist me on this issue by writing a letter of support, for this legislation, to your National Council representative or you may address it to the speaker of the National Council.

With your help, we can improve the structure and representation of the Muscogee Nation and at the same time, operate in a more cost efficient manner.

I would also like to report to you that the National Council has been working very hard to improve tribal government.

All individual representatives are to be commended for their work.

Thank you for your support.

Jerry Wilson, Glenpool

Editor's note: Wilson is a Tulsa District Representative and the second speaker of the National Council.

Under the proposed legislation (NCA 92-76) each district would have one representative with the remaining sixteen to be divided proportionally among the districts.

Currently, the tribal constitution calls for each district to have at least one representative and then an additional representative for every one thousand tribal citizens.

The tribal citizenship figures show current tribal enrollment at more than 33,000. Barring any constitutional amendment, the next council will have at least 33 members.

The first Council had eight members.

Letters can be addressed to the National Council, P.O. Box 158, Okmulgee, OK 74447

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the tribal capitol complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need ot the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News,* unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News,* its advisors or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address. Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-video specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursday, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Friday, 8 a.m., Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
KRAF-Holdenville, am 1370, Saturday, 3 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sunday, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturday, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sunday, 7 a.m.

KUSH listing

Muscogee Nation seeking recognition of reservation status

by Jim Wolfe
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal officials are seeking approval from the National Council for reservation status.

The bill, NCA 92-62, requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs to remove the Muscogee Nation from non-reservation status and to increase funding proportionally to those reservation tribes.

Robert Trepp, the tribe's policy analyst, said he believes the Creek Nation is a reservation.

"This is still a reservation in the sense that this is a permanent tribal homeland," Trepp said.

Trepp contends that reservation status has been accepted by a federal district court judge when he ruled the Creek's reservation had never been abolished in the tribe's case against the Oklahoma Tax Commission in 1986.

Reservation status is one part of the case that was not contested when the OTC appealed.

"(Reservation status) should have been given when the tribe won the bingo case," Trepp said. "This is an opportunity that we've been looking for for a long time."

The bill also requests the BIA to increase funding for the tribe to reflect reservation status and to increase the funding for the Okmulgee agency.

Trepp said the tribe is receiving one-tenth the funding that tribes with reservation status receive.

Tribal law enforcement would be affected immediately, said Trepp, and other programs contracted by the tribe from the BIA would gradually be affected.

Trepp also said water, hunting, and fishing rights would also be restored.

Dennis Springwater, assistant area director at Muskogee, said Oklahoma was never a reservation because the land was allotted.

"The Osage have a reservation because they never allotted the sub-surface and the mineral rights are held for the tribe," Springwater said. "The other tribes allotted surface and minerals."

Springwater said he considers a reservation to be something similar to the Navajo or Hopi reservations.

Springwater said he had not seen the bill.

Representatives of the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association, who have seen the bill, expressed their disapproval in a letter to Council Speaker Clarence Cloud.

The letter reads: "We would like to point out that the U.S. government has always recognized us as a nation of people; the state of Oklahoma challenged our sovereignty which resulted in (a reaffirmation) that we (are) indeed a sovereign nation.

"We oppose NCA 92-62. We are afraid it will jeopardize our sovereignty and personally choose to remain under non-reservation status."

The letter is signed by Rufus Cox, OCMA chair and five other community officers and board members.

The letter also suggests the matter be "brought

please see **RESERVATION...**, on page 12

Council approves eyeglass funding, three-year plans at June session

Style

OKMULGEE - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council appropriated $45,000 for the eyeglass assistance program at its June session.

The tribal legislature took the funds from unexpended tobacco taxes.

According to Council findings, 276 applications went unserved from an earlier children's vision program and 86 elderly eyeglass applications also have not been served.

The program will pay for an examination not to exceed $40 and limits the funding for eyeglasses at $85. The funds will be disbursed through a voucher system.

In other business, the Council:

- approved an amendment to the tribal judgement fund procedure for additional time to consider the fourth three-year plan. Federal delays in approval of the procedure for the three-year plan created the need for the original tribal ordinance regarding the funds to be amended from a June 1 deadline to a later date;
- adopted a policy for management of petty cash funds;
- approved the principal chief's program of tribal judgement funds of the fourth three-year plan for fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995. The chief's program of interest from the judgement funds includes 30 percent for social welfare, 25 percent for higher education, 25 percent for higher education, 10 percent for economic development, and 10 percent for tribal programs;
- authorized the applications and approved the budget for the tribe's food distribution program for fiscal year 1993. The action allowed the tribe to meet a July 1 deadline for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the commodity food distribution program;
- tabled a bill calling for a constitutional amendment that would reduce the Council to 24 members. The bill was tabled on a motion by Tulsa District Representative Larry Bible so that other constitutional amendments could be placed on the same ballot, reducing the costs of special elections;
- postponed a bill providing supplemental funding for the emergency medical aid services program. Muskogee District Rep. Harley Little moved for the postponement to identify a funding source for the $11,000 until the July 16 planning session; and
- postponed confirmation of Amos McNac of Bristow, to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court until the July 16 planning session.

Council approves emergency funds, new loan agreement

OKMULGEE - The Muscogee (Creek) National Council appropriated $25,000 from unexpended bingo revenues at a June 24 special session to provide emergency clothing assistance following a June 19 storm that tore through Glenpool.

The Council amended NCA 92-89 to include emergency needs of Creek and Yuchi families affected by natural disasters.

In other business, the Council also approved a resolution that allows the gaming operations authority board to negotiate a loan for financing of the Muskogee bingo hall construction.

The Council had earlier authorized the board to negotiate with Commercial Bank of Muskogee. The bank however, wanted the tribe to waive immunity, said Harley Little, Muskogee District Representative.

Policy analyst Robert Trepp said the tribe was willing to use certificates of deposit as collateral for the $1.1 million dollar loan.

"We thought a pledge of (certificates of deposit) was sufficient and in fact, it is," Trepp said.

The Council then authorized the gaming board to negotiate a loan with First National Bank, Henryetta.

Tribal supreme court adds three

OKMULGEE — A former national Council representative has been appointed to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court.

Ed Frye, a retired telecommunications worker, was given approval by the National Council in May for a six-year term.

Frye, a Yuchi-Cherokee, is the third court appointee of Principal Chief Bill Fife, to receive Council approval. Justice Mike Flud of Morris, was also approved for a six-year term at the May council meeting. Flud is the only original justice still serving on the court and is the first justice to be nominated by two different chiefs.

Checotah attorney Jim Hayes was Fife's first successful nominee, but a motion filed by Okmulgee District Rep. George Alemrigi delayed his confirmation. developed

Fife also nominated Roger Canard, a Dallas chiropractor, and former McIntosh District Representative Frank Kamp. Canard's nomination never made it before the full Council for a vote and Kamp withdrew from consideration.

According to court records, Frye is the first justice to be named to the court. Frye said he was pleased to be confirmed and aware of his unique status.

"I'm on the other side now," said Frye, who as a legislator authored several tribal laws. "My term should be interesting, difficult, and challenging."

The Supreme Court upheld a tribal district court ruling concerning Hayes confirmation.

Almerigi had filed a motion questioning the constitutionality of the exact date Hayes term was to begin.

Hayes has experience in tribal law as he was former Council speaker Ken Childers' proxy to the Lighthorse Commission.

Since December, the Supreme Court has lost Eliot Howe, Clarence Douglas and Willard Pittman.

Howe, also an original justice, was serving a second term in a temporary capacity. He stepped down in December. Douglas retired from the court in March for health reasons and Pittman is simply retiring. All three were appointed by former Principal Chief Claude

please see **COURT...**, on page 12

Indian Falls Creek attracts thousands

stories and photos by
Jim Wolfe, MNN Editor

DAVIS -- It has been 46 years since Baptist Indians of all tribes first gathered in the Arbuckle Mountains for spiritual renewal and fellowship.

Indian Falls Creek, held annually during the last week of June, drew more than 3,000 people to the rocky hills near Davis, for a week of bible study, discipleship training, preaching, and fellowship.

"It's the largest gathering of Indian Christians in North America," claims Bill Barnett, executive director for Indian Falls Creek.

Barnett, Creek, is also pastor of Indian Nations Baptist Church in Seminole. He is in his third year of a four-year term as executive director.

Barnett said more than 40 churches, representing nearly 60 different tribes, attended Falls Creek this year. The more than 3,000 registered guests broke the previous record for attendance of 2,423 set in 1985.

While classes and instructions for witnessing, Bible studies, church training, missions, and lifestyles are available, the two most significant attractions to Falls Creek are the scenery and the people.

Cabins are scattered throughout the hills on this 500-acre tract owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma near the Arbuckle Wilderness area.

Once inside the gates, contact with the outside is minimal. People are clothed for summer weather, albeit modestly. There aren't supposed to be any televisions, stereos, or other items that can cause distractions from spiritual pursuits.

Worship services begin early. Mornings are also given to studies in open-air classrooms. Afternoons are for recreation, rest, and visitation.

Evening worship services begin at 7 p.m. This year, Phillip Wade was the camp pastor. Other speakers included Sunday school board president Jimmy Draper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, evangelist Oscar Romo, with the home mission board, home mission board president Larry Lewis, and Navaho evangelist Russell Begay, who organized the quadrennial meeting of Vision Quest 2000 at Falls Creek this year.

Generally, each cabin will hold nightly devotionals at the end of the day.

Robert Haskins, director of missions for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has been attending Indian Falls Creek for 23 years.

"This year's assembly was one of the best in terms of spiritual growth," Haskins said. "It's exciting to see the spiritual growth of Indian leadership."

Haskins says that leadership is an important reason for the success of Indian Falls Creek.

"In 1970, Indian Falls Creek was being organized and lead by Anglos," Haskins said. "The camp now is being run by Native Americans and that excites me."

Haskins said leadership is also responsible for some of the conferences that are conducted. He attended a conference that studied ways to minister to urban Indians.

Other changes at Falls Creek included services for children that were held in the B.B. McKinney Chapel, apart from the open-air tabernacle where worship services are held.

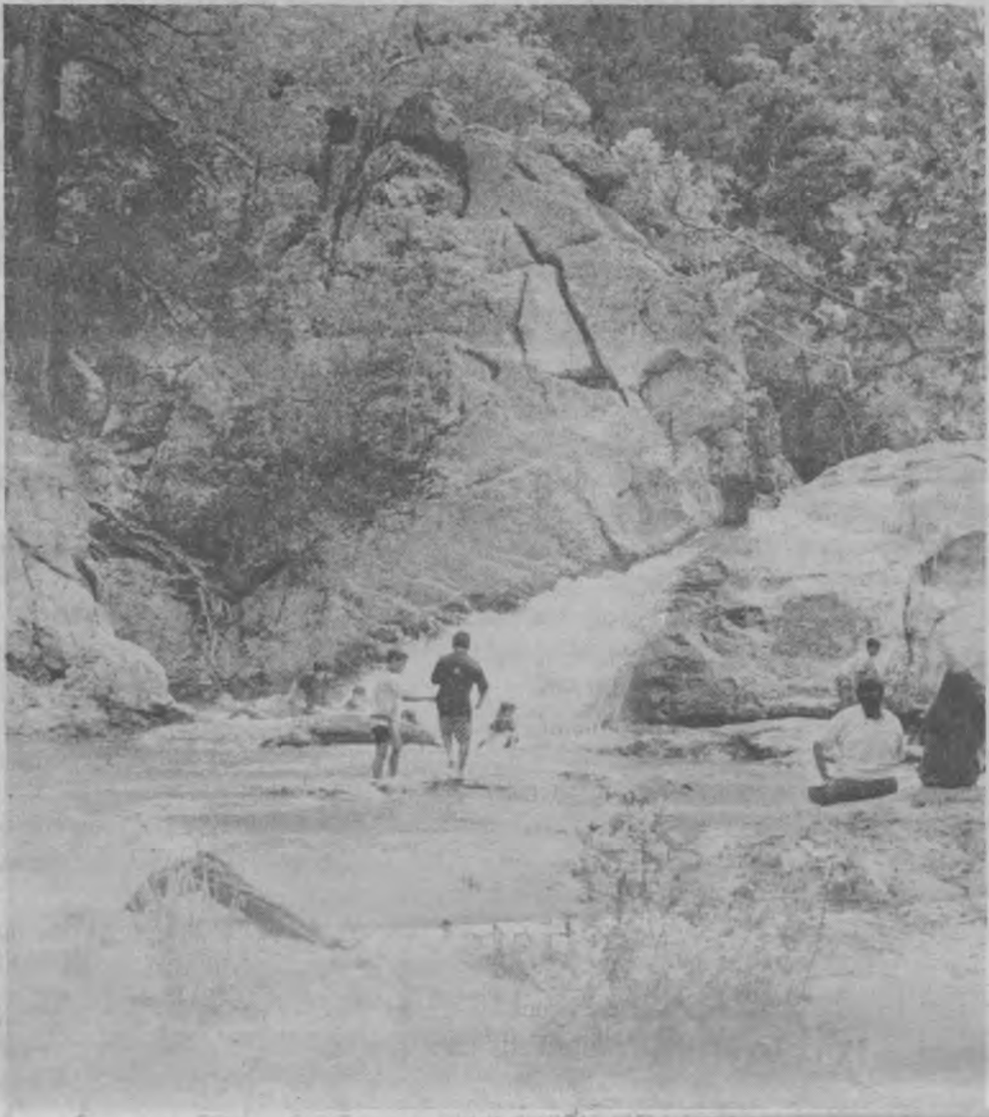
Recreation is also important at Falls Creek. Despite the rains and hot weather, 64 teams competed in volleyball and 44 played in the softball tournament.

Though the services, conferences, and other opportunities are vital parts of Indian Falls Creek, its the people that make Falls Creek unique Barnett says.

"You know you're among God's people (at Falls Creek)," Barnett said. "These are real dedicated people."

Barnett says people are challenged to take the lessons learned at Falls Creek and apply them in their lives away from the camp.

"For one week, people can come here to find encouragement and strength to carry on in the real world," Barnett said.



The Devil's Bathtub is one of the more popular attractions at Falls Creek. For years, its access was restricted. Now, campers young and old may enjoy the natural fall.

Falls Creek director marks 25-year attendance

DAVIS - Trying to keep pace with the executive director of Indian Falls Creek is a challenge.

In the span of a 90-minute interview, Bill Barnett played volleyball with members of his Indian Nations Baptist Church, took messages in his office, ran a Seminole Nation color guard through paces for the evening worship service, rehearsed a group of actors for a skit, and returned to the volleyball court to lead cheers.

Between tasks, Barnett answered a reporter's questions about Indian Falls Creek.

The 46th annual Indian Falls Creek was held June 22 through 27 at the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly near Davis.

As a pastor at First Indian Baptist Church in Muskogee, Barnett brought a group from his church for the week-long camp near the Arbuckle Wilderness in 1967. It was also the first time he ever attended Falls Creek.

In his third year of a four-year term as executive director of Indian Falls Creek, Barnett has worked in several different capacities at Falls Creek.

He served on various committees and served as personnel director, responsible for recruiting the necessary support staff to operate Indian Falls Creek.

Barnett

"It's a lot of work, but I like what I'm doing," Barnett said.

Barnett is quick to share the credit with his executive board.

"Our board is competent and we've got a good representation of people," Barnett said. "Several of the board members are under 30 and they are very enthusiastic."

Barnett said that after elections for board membership are held in July, the committee begins meeting monthly in August.

Others praise Barnett.

Jimmy Anderson, Creek, is the director of Indian missions with the Baptist General Convention of

please see BARNETT..., page11

Northeast Senior Methodists to hold annual camp meet at Seminole Hitchitee

CROMWELL — The Northeast District Senior United Methodists Annual Camp Meeting will be held July 17, 18, and 19 at Seminole Hitchitee United Methodist Church.

Other activities not listed in the following agenda are storytelling and the display of old photographs and antiques. Camp meeting attenders are encouraged to bring old photographs and antiques, as a table will be set up for their display.

Exit interstate 40 and state highway 56, drive 3 miles south and eight miles west on state highway 99 A, drive north on dirt road one-half mile.

The meeting agenda is as follows:

July 17

3:30 p.m. — Registration and fellowship
5:30 p.m. — Supper
7:30 p.m. — Welcome: Host pastor
Devotional: Ben Harjo
Testimonial service: Warren Doxtator
Dismissal — refreshments following

July 18

7 a.m. — Sunrise service: Warren Doxtator
7:30 a.m. — Breakfast
9 a.m. — Love feast: Peggy Chalakee
10:15 a.m. — Break
10:30 a.m. — Devotional: Melissa Deere
Sermon: Walter McHenry
Noon — Dinner
1:30 p.m. — Devotional: Eloise Long
Sermon: Nathan Billy
3 p.m. — Break
3:15 p.m. — Devotional: Mary Sunny
Sermon: Ruben Chalakee
5:30 p.m. — Supper
7 p.m. — Devotional: Susie Monday
Sermon: Rev. Thomas Long
Dismissal — refreshments following

July 19

7 a.m. — Sunrise service: Warren Doxtator
7:30 a.m. — Breakfast
9 a.m. — Sunday School
10:30 a.m. — Devotional: Ruby Chupco
Sermon: Rev. Lee Chupco
Offering
Noon — Dinner
1:30 p.m. — Devotional: Nancy Beaver
Memorial service: Pauline Billy
3 p.m. — Communion Service: Rev. Ray McGilbray
(Stewards: Pauline Billy and Peggy Chalakee)
Farewell handshake and dismissal

Religion in brief

Many Springs gospel singing

HOLDENVILLE—Many Springs Baptist Church will host a gospel singing Aug. 8. Masters of ceremonies will be James Bruner and Benson Alexander. The church is located five miles southeast of Holdenville on state highway 48 and one mile east by Lake Holdenville. Everyone is welcome.

Buck memorial singing

HOLDENVILLE — The Buck Memorial All Night Gospel Singing will be held July 17 and 18, beginning at 7:30 nightly. Location will be southwest of Holdenville, on the Spaulding Road. Talent includes: Chuck Wagon Gang, Wendy Bagwell and the Sunliters, Exodus, Orphan Family, Wayne Ellie Family, Darbys, Feddie Villa Family, Templeaires, and many more. Admission is free.

Mvskoke Baptists' presence evident at Indian Falls Creek

DAVIS - Several Muscogee (Creek) citizens were attending the 46th Indian Falls Creek.

Former Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association director of missions Leon Postoak brought a group from Central Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, where he now pastors.

Included in his contingent were three Cuna Indians from the San Blas Islands near Panama in Central America. Postoak said Ubaldina Morris, Francisco Lombardo, and Lino Smith were sponsored by the Central Baptist congregation. The church also paid for their air fare to Oklahoma.

Postoak said the Cunas want to get Bibles printed in their native language to support their ministry efforts.

Postoak also reported that Central Baptist has expanded its Sunday school classes for discipleship training and missions work. Postoak and his wife, Wanda, have begun a prison ministry.

"We're trying to teach and train people who can then work with others to teach and train," Postoak said...

Helen Coon and Cora Leitka were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the ministry of Indian people. Coon of Sapulpa, is the chair of the Creek Nation Hosptial and Clinics Board. She is a member of Little Cussetah Baptist, Sapulpa.

Leitka of Okmulgee, was recognized by the Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly and the cooperative missions department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for her "dedicated service rendered to the cause of Jesus Christ among the native people." Leitka accepted the award for her and her late husband. The Leitka's were instrumental in getting the annual assembly started. Leitka is a member of Glenpool Indian Mission.

Loretta Denny of Glenpool, again served as health director for the camp. Denny, whose home church is Little Cussetah Baptist, has been the health director for five years. She is a licensed practical nurse and has worked at Falls Creek for 12 years.

Most of the injuries reported were minor, Denny said.

"We get the scrapes, the sprains, and the twisted knees," Denny said. "One man did suffer a stroke but we were able to get him proper medical attention..."

Millie Colbert of Eufaula, is the Indian Falls Creek executive committee secretary. She is a member of Weogufkee Baptist Church where her husband, Rudolph, pastors...

John Culley of Wewoka, was camp security director. The Cedar River Baptist Church, Holdenville, member said people were well behaved and reported no serious problems...

Leigh Anne Downing, the 1992-93 Miss Creek Nation, taught a class of first graders. The Calvin resident is a member of Tookparfka Baptist Church, Calvin. Downing has attended Falls Creek for the last three years. "I enjoy seeing my old friends..."

Carmen Tecumseh of Tahlequah, also taught a class at Falls Creek. A member of Silver Springs Baptist Church, Dewar, Tecumseh was teaching high school girls about lifestyle choices.

"I've been trying to cover the subjects of dating, self-esteem, morality, and other topics related to being a teenager," [illegible] Falls Creek is something she anticipates. "I look forward to being able to come here and get away from the rest of the world for a while..."

Christine Burgess Roberts of Okemah, was attending Falls Creek for the first time. She is a member of High Spring Baptist Church, Okemah, that came to Falls Creek with Greenleaf Baptist Church, Okemah.

"There is a lot to do and see here," said Burgess. "I've enjoyed myself..."

Two of the younger members of the executive committee are Boyd Cummings, 27, of Oklahoma City, and Al Brennan, 22, of Norman. Cummings serves as outreach director and attends Oklahoma Baptist University. Brennan was this year's talent coordinator and attends Rose State College. Both are members of Indian Nations Baptist Church, Seminole.

- compiled by Jim Wolfe

Barnett at the front of Indian missions work

continued from page 4

Oklahoma. He says Barnett is a part of the Indian leadership that is responsible for the growth of Indian Falls Creek.

"He's good," Anderson said. "He's a good thinker, planner, and an excellent organizer. He's just a good man."

Anderson said Barnett's work ethic and personal ministry provides inspiration for other Indian leaders.

Barnett is also excited about the goal of starting 200 new congregations in Oklahoma by the year 2000. He says Falls Creek is very important in reaching that goal.

"We know that there is a lack of trained (Indian) leadership for churches in Oklahoma," Barnett said. "We're setting up programs so that the people in this camp can begin working toward that goal.

"There are a lot of opportunities for people to get involved in missions work," Barnett said. "From here, there are a lot of people responding."

Barnett knows about church growth. He began his Indian Nations Baptist Church in Seminole with seven members. Today, the church has regular attendance of more than 100 with an enrollment of approximately 130.

With the incessant demands on Barnett, it is difficult to imagine him with any free time for his daily devotions or relaxation.

"I start very early in the day," Barnett said. "The only way to get time is to just get away for prayer and devotion. Sometimes, I just have to get away and go play ball."

Barnett was asked if working with young people kept him young.

"I certainly hope so," he said. "Every year I find a few more gray hairs. I've been accused of coloring my hair, but if I were going to do that, I'd get them all."

Elections, pow wow, sports festival to be held by communities

compiled by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Okemah elects new officers, offers painting class

— In early July Okemah Indian Community secretary, treasurer, and board member resigned from their offices while community members voted Wilman Berryhill in as community chair.

Wilman Berryhill

Former secretary Nancy Duncan resigned to assume the position of community program developer. Inda McGertt, treasurer, and Betty Scott, board member, also resigned. Thomas Yahola, former chair, resigned in June.

Lucy Tiger, Loretta Noon, and Ruth Fobb were recently elected as board members to the community's board of directors. The positions of secretary, treasurer, and board member will be assigned to the three women during its July 13 regular meeting.

— Fabric painting classes are being offered at the community center twice weekly. Interested community members may call member Rebecca Stroud, for specific meeting dates, at 623- 0961. The class members are currently working on a quilt that will be raffled-off at the grand opening of its elders' nutrition center. A date for the grand opening has not been set.

— In early July the community held a wiener roast, swimming party, and set-off fire works for its Creek Nation Festival Youth Olympics team and community members

— Stroud recently participated in Okemah's Woody Guthrie Days. She set-up a booth exhibiting and allowing celebration participants to sample and ask questions about the preparation of her blue and grape dumplings.

Holdenville holding community officer election

— Holdenville Indian Community recently adopted its constitution and will hold officer elections from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., July 18 at its community center.

Nominees and will be posted by July 15. In order to vote, community members' names must appear on a voter membership list. Both lists will be posted on the south door of the community center. The center is located at 416 E. Poplar.

Yardeka elects officers, offers garbage service

— At 7 p.m., July 26 Yardeka Indian Community members will hold an election to fill the offices of secretary and treasurer.

Former secretary and treasurer, Elizabeth Shipley and Wanda Williams, have each missed three consecutive meetings, prohibited by community by-laws.

— The community is offering garbage collection service to area residents for $8 per month. Garbage pick-up days are each Thursday morning. For more information, call the community smokeshop at 652-2476.

— Vice-chair Wilson King is commending the efforts of the community's new Job Training Partnership Act employees Melanie Thompson and Beatrice Fry. The women have been busy mowing and painting around the community center.

Hanna community to hold third all-sports festival

— Hanna Indian Community is holding its third all-sports festival, in conjunction with the Hanna Watermelon Festival, Aug. 7 through 9.

The three sports tournaments to be held are coed volleyball, women's, and men's slowpitch.

The women's slowpitch tournament will begin at 6 p.m., Aug. 7 and 9 a.m., Aug. 8 and 9. The tournament will be limited to eight to 12 teams with a 12-player roster. The $75 entry fee is due by Aug. 1. First place winners will receive a t-shirt and a team trophy. Second place winners will also receive a t-shirt and a team trophy. Third place winners will receive a team trophy. A most valuable player trophy will be awarded.

The men's slowpitch tournament will begin at 6 p.m., Aug. 7 and 9 a.m., Aug. 8 and 9. The tournament will be limited to 10 to 14 teams with a 12-player roster. The $85 entry fee is due by Aug. 1. First place winners will receive a jacket and a team trophy. Second place winners will receive a t-shirt and a team trophy. Third place winners will receive a team trophy. A ball bag will be awarded to most the valuable player.

The coed volleyball tournament will begin at 9 p.m., Aug. 8. It will be limited to 10 to 12 teams, with an eight-player roster — four man, four woman. The entry deadline is Aug. 1. The $40 entry fee may be paid on Aug. 8.

First place winners will be awarded t-shirts and a team trophy. Second place winners will receive a t-shirt and a team trophy. Third place winners will receive a team trophy.

Concessions will be provided.

For more information, call (918) 657-2424. Call (918) 657- 2595, after 5 p.m.

Glenpool offering Mvskoke and Yuchi classes

— Glenpool Creek Indian Community is offering Mvskoke and Yuchi language classes from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening.

James Proctor is instructing the Mvskoke language classes and Yuchi language classes are being taught by Bill Cahwee.

The classes are free of charge and will be held at the community center. The center is located just east of U.S. Highway 75 and one quarter of a mile north of 141st Street.

— The Glenpool Indian Community newsletter offered special thanks to the following individuals for their assistance during the city's June 19 storm disaster: Principal Chief Bill Fife; Second Chief Shelly Crow; Creek National Council Tulsa District Representatives Larry Bible and Irene Cleghorn; second speaker Jerry Wilson; and the American Red Cross.

— The community giftshop is accepting Indian-made items for consignment. For more information, call the center at (918) 291-5300

— The community smokeshop hours are: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m., Sunday.

The community smokeshop recently sponsored the Glenpool Smokeshop Indians at the Oklahoma City All-Indian Fastpitch Tournament.

— Proctor and other members of the community were participants in the Red Earth Parade, held June 12 in Oklahoma City.

— Job Training Partnership Act employees are: Jacci Kelly; John Skeeter; and Jennifer Hudson.

Dustin holds Mvskoke language class

— Dustin Indian Community is holding Mvskoke language classes at 7 p.m., each Monday through Aug. 10.

John Riley, Weleetka, is the class instructor. The classes are being held at the Dustin High School Science Building.

The Aug. 10 regular community meeting will be held at 6 p.m., because of the classes.

Dewar holds graduation for language class

— Dewar Indian Community is holding a graduation ceremony for its Mvskoke language class students.

The graduation will be held at 7 p.m., July 20. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The center is located at 402 Luella St.

— At 7:15 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, the community van offers members rides to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah. Those interested in rides should schedule their trips at least one day in advance. Community members may call the center at 652-3310, or secretary Eliza Mae Hicks at 652-7795.

Riders should arrive at the center by 7 a.m.

— Community grocery bingo will be held Aug. 4. The food sale will begin at 6 p.m. and the bingo games will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is $4 for 20 games. Proceeds from the games will be used to take community elders on a trip.

Weleetka offers transportation to elders

— Weleetka Indian Community is offering its elders transportation to the Creek Nation Community Hospital, Okemah, each Monday.

Community elders wanting transportation should arrive at the center, 609 S. Chickasaw, by 10 a.m. Those needing prescriptions filled may also drop them by the center or smokeshop to have them prescribed.

Eufaula's annual pow wow slated for September

— Eufaula Indian Community's Sixth Annual Labor Day Pow Wow is scheduled for September 5 through 7.

Other activities that will be included are: coed softball; volleyball; horseshoes; and archery tournaments.

For more information, call (918) 689-5066 or (918) 689-5407. Individuals in the Oklahoma City area may call (405) 732- 1359, after 5 p.m.

Young community member wins art contest

— Third-grade Wilson Indian Community member Nelson Harjo recently placed first in the Oklahoma State Department of Indian Education Exposition Region V art show.

Exposition judges chose the artwork of the Wilson Grade School student out of 400 other contestants. Harjo's acrylic painting depicted a Sioux burial scene.

Harjo is the assistant song leader at Little Cussetah Methodist Church. He is the son of Scott and Georgia Harjo, Wilson Community. His paternal grandparents

please see COMMUNITIES..., page 10

Tribal affairs briefs

Childers, McIntosh confirmed to tribal gaming operations board

OKMULGEE — Ken Childers and Rocky McIntosh have been named to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Gaming Operations Authority Board.

Childers, former National Council speaker, was appointed by Principal Chief Bill Fife. His appointment needed no confirmation. McIntosh was also appointed by Fife and was confirmed by the Council in June.

"I am pleased the principal chief has the confidence in me to serve in this capacity," Childers said. "My main reason for accepting this position is to pursue better working conditions and environment for our Creek people."

Former board members Allie Reynolds of Oklahoma City, and Robert Inglish of Tulsa, resigned their commissions. Both were appointed by former Principal Chief Claude Cox.

The gaming board has oversight and regulatory responsibilities for the tribe's bingo operations.

Childers is from Glenpool and McIntosh resides in Okmulgee. The pair join Sonny O'Hern of Duck Creek, on the three-member board.

Election board hires manager

OKMULGEE – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board has hired Diane Lowe of Okemah, as office manager.

"We feel she is well qualified for the position and will do a good job for the tribe," said Jess Kelley, election board member.

The board eliminated the position of election board secretary, opting for an office manager instead.

Lowe is married to Franklin Lowe. The couple have three children.

She is the daughter of Willie Randall of Preston and Mary Randall of Oklahoma City.

Genealogist featured at Sapulpa

SAPULPA — The Sapulpa Genealogical Society will feature Marybelle Chase in a genealogical forum Aug. 29 beginning at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church 1401 E. Taft in Sapulpa.

Chase is a native Oklahoman of Cherokee descent. She has been a researcher of Indian genealogy and history for 14 years. Chase is also a publisher of several Cherokee genealogical books and publishes *The Cherokee Tracer*, a quarterly publication.

Chase will discuss researching Indian rolls and census, five civilized tribes records, and identify sources for Indian research.

Cost for the seminar is $17. Checks should be made payable to the Genealogical Society, Indian Research Seminar, 1015 E. McLeod, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

Castle Indian Community to meet

CASTLE — The Castle Indian Community will meet Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at the home of Christina Henneha. Her home is located one and one-half miles north of state highway 56 and one half mile west of state highway 48. The purpose of the meeting is to begin rerganizing the Castle Indian Community and to develop plans, said Steve Landsberry, community specialist for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Landsberry said a tribal official will also be present.

Contract health services announces policy for reporting emergency medical treatment

WEWOKA — Contract health services can pay for some medical services received at a non-Indian Health Services hospital according to a release from Kate Yellowfish, a health systems specialist at the Wewoka service unit.

"How do I report emergency treatment received at a non-IHS hospital is a question that has been asked time and again by our patients," Yellowfish said.

The following are instructions for reporting such treatment:

— in the event of a life or limb threatening emergency, patients are advised to go to the nearest emergency treatment center. Notification of the emergency must be phoned in or delivered to the contract health services office within 72 hours after the initiail treatment. It is the patient's or his or her representative's responsibility to notify the contract health office, not the attending physician;

— you will need to submit a copy of the emergency room report from the hospital where you received treatment. Payment will not be approved without this;

— you will need to report out-patient emergency room treatment to the Wewoka Clinic contract health specialist at (405) 257-6282, ext. 360;

— when hospitalization at a non-Indian Health Service facility is necessary, this should be reported to the Creek Nation contract health specialist at (918) 623-1424. Patients need to file medical assistance through their local county wlefare office if they do not have private insurance, medicare or active welfare. Failure to comply with the requests for financial data will result in a denial from the county welfare office. A denial will then be issued from the contract health office for failure to cooperate with the county welfare office. All charges will then be the responsibility of the paatient or guardian.

The information is required by all patients receiving emergency treatment.

Yellowfish said a true emergency is one where a patient cannot possibly make it to an IHS hospital

"Denied requests are not decided by one person," Yellowfish said. "There is a committee established within our clinic staff that makes the final determination."

For more information contact Yellowfish at (405) 257-6282.

Religion in brief

Springfield Methodist hosts singing

OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church is holding its 22nd Annual All-night Gospel Singing beginning 7 p.m., July 18.

The emcee will be Eastman Factor, Oklahoma City.

The church is located two miles south of interstate 40, on state highway 27, four miles east, and one mile south.

Vann's Lake Baptist hosts gospel singing

PORTER — Vann's Lake Baptist Church is having its annual gospel singing July 25 at 7 p.m. Supper will be served at 5 p.m. Master of ceremonies is Robert Jones of the Muskogee Sounds. Jones said this is an outdoor singing, so bring your lawnchairs. To get to the church from Muskogee, go north 10 miles on U.S. Highway 69. Turn west at Baker's Catfish Restaurant and go one mile. The church is on the right side of the road.

Arkeka Methodist to hold gospel singing

OKEMAH — Arbeka Methodist Church is hosting a gospel singing Aug. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. Master of ceremonies is Robert Jones of the Muskogee Sounds.

To get to the church from Okemah, go west on interstate 40. Go north on the Wewoka exit three and one-half miles to the intersection. Go west one-half mile and the church is on theleft.

Creek communities busy with summer activities

continued from page 6

are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harjo, Weleetka, and his maternal grandparents are Esther and the late Monroe Burgess, Henryetta.

Wilson Public School students attending the exposition were: Tiffany Whitrow; Memory Parrish; Mindy Gilroy; John Lane; and Harjo.

Wetumka holding buffet, opens smokeshop

— Wetumka Indian Community is holding an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet from 7 a.m. to noon, July 18.

Among items the buffet will include are sausage, bacon, pancakes, eggs, biscuits, and gravy. The buffet will cost $3.

— The community opened its smokeshop July 1. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Oklahoma City Creeks begin new endeavor

— The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association is currently developing a five-lesson Mvskoke language course.

The lessons will consist of an audio tape and study manual and will be on sale for $50 each. The endeavor is an economic development project of the community.

For more information, call the community office at (405) 632-5872.

Local newspaper publishes Muskogee menu

— Muskogee Indian Community elders may read each Wednesday's Muskogee Phoenix, features section, for the coming week's elder' nutrition center menu.

Okfuskee to hold August flea market

— Okfuskee Indian Community will be holding a flea market from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Aug. 8.

Booth space may be rented for $3. Concessions will be available. For more information, call Annie Hicks, treasurer, at (918) 623-1963.

GRADUATES' SPOTLIGHT

Jackson

Kelley Ray Jackson
School: Bacone College
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Louie Jackson, Muskogee
Grandparents: The late Luella Jackson, Weleetka
Activities: Bacone Players Drama Club; student senate secretary; and assistant women's basketball coach
Awards: maintained a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) grade point average
Goals: Jackson plans to attend Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, and major in music education.

Kasero

Gwendolyn Kasero
School: St. Catherine High School
Parents: Frank and Susie Kasero, Santa Fe
Grandparents: Joe and Hattie Foley, Wetumka
Activities: National Honor Society; varsity volleyball; varsity basketball; senior class secretary; and New Mexico Girls State
Awards: All-district volleyball and basketball; all-state honorable mention volleyball; student of the month; Who's Who Among American High School Students; ranked fifth in her class; volleyball team captain; basketball team captain; athletic scholarship; and academic excellence scholarship at Briar Cliff College
Goals: Kasero plans to attend Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

Marshall

Mary Marshall
School: Bacone College, associate of science degree in accounting
Parents: Elmer and Sanah YargeeMarshall, Wewoka
Activities: Phi Theta Kappa (national junior college scholastic fraternity); Bacone Chapter PTK recording secretary;
Awards: president's honor roll; all-American at large division scholar; national collegiate business merit award; inclusion in the U.S. Achievement Academy national collegiate awards yearbook; Who's Who in the South and Southwest
Goals: Marshall is pursuing a business degree at Oklahoma City University Meinder's School of Business.

Melinda Yargee
School: Sequoyah High School
Parents: Lillie and Jacky Yargee, Eufaula
Activities: Fellowship of Christian Athletes; student council president; varsity basketball; track; cross country; and softball
Awards: scholar athlete award; Jim Thorpe Award; leadership award; academic awards in Spanish, English and U.S. history; and graduated with a 3.26 (on a scale of 4.0) grade point average

Sequoyah High School art student earning recognition for his work

by the Cherokee Nation
news service

Gouge

TAHLEQUAH — All of us need a way to express ourselves. Musicians use song, writers use words, and artists use canvas. For at least one young artist, that type of expression is the best solution to all of life's short-comings.

Washington "Buffalo" Gouge Jr., a junior at Sequoyah High School, says he uses art as an "outlet" to express his innermost feelings. He claims it allows him to live out of his dreams, to complete his thoughts, and to step back in history.

Gouge, of Creek and Cherokee descent, describes his work as spiritually traditional.

For the most part, his designs originate from oral stories passed on to him from his elders, particularly his grandparents, but occasionally the finished product is a mixture of history and his own imagination. It's likely that one will find a medicine man, a stomp dance scene, or some other traditional depiction in his work.

The 18-year-old native of Moore said he has been creating art since he was in pre-school.

"The teachers always told my mom that I had a special talent. I was always drawing or painting something."

Although he is self-taught, Gouge says he was influenced by the late Jerome Tiger, a well-known Creek artist.

"I really wanted to model my work after Jerome Tiger, he said. "He was the one who influenced me the most."

It may have been Tiger's influence that helped him to earn more than $500 this year in various competitions. Excluding a $300 scholarship from the Tulsa Indian Arts Festival, Gouge's prize money nearly doubles that of all the other Sequoyah art students combined.

Raised in a single parent family, Gouge says he hasn't forgotten what it's like to have a limited income and although he doesn't plan to make a great deal of money right away, he hopes to make his living as a professional artist.

"I don't want to be a starving artist. I want to do my art outside of my career and then when I become established, maybe I can do it full-time," he said.

His plans for the future include attending college to earn a degree in commercial or graphic arts, but until then he will spend his last year at Sequoyah entering more art competitions. Gouge is the son of Wydinca Lou Smith of Moore.

Muscogee students among top grads at Sequoyah High School

TAHLEQUAH—Twelve Creek seniors, including the class salutatorian, have been confirmed to participate in graduation ceremonies at Sequoyah High School.

Melinda Yargee of Eufaula, is the salutatorian.

The baccalaureate service was held May 10 in the SHS gymnasium with Rev. Bill Holcomb. Commencement was May 15 at the SHS football stadium.

The commencement ceremony included comments from Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, SHS superintendent Delton Cox and special guest speaker, Creek Nation Principal Chief Bill Fife.

Listed below are Creek seniors and their hometowns.

From Eufaula: Lee Ann Merritt, Melinda Yargee, and Mose Lewis
Sapulpa: Shawna Perez, Chiquitta Spottedbird
Tulsa: Mike Yahola, Christine Watashe
Bethany: Ashe Deere
Okmulgee: Annette Powell
Jennings: Jackie Starr
Okemah: Tina Davis
Mounds: Warren Myers

Education in Brief

Bureau of Indian Affairs to relocate education office to city

MUSKOGEE—the Bureau of Indian Affairs will cease operation of the office of Indian education programs in Muskogee and Anadarko, on or about August 1, 1992. The functions of the two offices will be consolidated and moved to Oklahoma City as the Oklahoma area education office.

The office of Indian education programs provides funding, oversight technical assistance, administers contracts, and grants to tribes for operation of Indian schools, Johnson O' Malley, adult education, and higher education programs, and operates one boarding school.

Tribally operated Indian schools funded through the Oklahoma area education office will be Sequoyah, Jones Academy, Eufaula, Carter Seminary, and the Kickapoo Nation School in Kansas. Riverside Indian School is the only bureau operated school.

The jurisdiction of the new office will include services to 38 tribes and its 372,000 members. The service population is primarily located in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and parts of Nebraska, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Jim Baker, education program administrator of the Muskogee education office, has been selected to direct the combined offices and will move to Oklahoma City. This action affects only the education functions.

Creek Nation births

Shannean Cary Fields

Fields

TULSA — Shannean Cary Fields was born April 28 at Tulsa Regional Medical Center to Ira Cary Jr. and Nancy Scott Fields. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 and one-half ounces and was 21 and one-half inches at birth. She is Creek, Chickasaw, Pawnee, and Cherokee.

Her maternal grandparents are Kenneth and Effie Scott of Rose. Paternal grandmother is Marie Fields of Glenpool.

Tiffany Chantele Sullivan

Sullivan

KAYENTA, Ariz. — Tiffany Chantele Sullivan was born April 25, in Tuba City, Ariz., to Pamela Kay Sullivan, formerly of Okmulgee.

Tiffany weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces at birth and was 19 inches long.

She is the maternal granddaughter of Thomas and Glenda Sullivan. Her great-grandparents are the late Otis Sullivan, Helen and the late Rev. Lewis Bible of Dewar, and John and the late Lilian Arlle of Norman. Sullivan is of Creek and Shawnee descent.

Nashoba Ohyo Josette Snow

ESSEX, Md. — Nashoba Ohyo Josette Snow was born March 23, 1992 to Robin DuBose and Juan Snow.

Snow

She weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Her maternal grandmother is Ruth DuBose, Hempstead, N.Y. Her maternal great-grandmother is Maud Robinson Baxter, Hempstead, N.Y. The baby is the great-great grandaughter of the late John Henry Robinson, originally from Kellyville.

Albert Eugene Berryhill Jr.

Berryhill

OKLAHOMA CITY — Albert Eugene Berryhill Jr. was born March 25, 1992 to Albert Sr. and LaVera Berryhill.

Berryhill weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces at birth.

His maternal grandparents are Daniel and Myrtle Billy of Idabel, and the late Albert and Alice Berryhill of Okemah.

Tribal citizen a delegate at Democratic convention

NEW YORK CITY — Creek teacher Chris Minyard recently represented Oklahoma second congressional district democrats as a delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention. Minyard was one of six second congressional district delegates attending the convention held at Madison Square Garden June 13 through 15.

Minyard

Minyard campaigned for and won the delegate seat at the district convention held at Fountainhead State Park in March.

She is one of two Native American delegates from the district. Minyard has held office in Okmulgee County Precinct 44 for the past 24 years.

She is a graduate of Graham High School and received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah.

She is currently the gifted-talented teacher and coordinator for Henryetta Public Schools.

Eufaula student named to achievement academy roll

EUFAULA — Sheridan Pickering has been recognized for academic achievement as a United States honor roll award winner.

Pickering, who attends Eufaula High School, will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's official yearbook, published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history," said Dr. George Stevens, USAA executive director.

Sheridan is the son of Tommy and Judith Pickering of Eufaula. Maternal grandparents are Harriett and the late Yahola Tiger of Eufaula. Her maternal great-grandmother is Susie Scott of Eufaula. James and Edna Pickering of Sapulpa, are her paternal grandparents.

Scott family reunion successful

EUFAULA — The descendants of Daniel and Jessee Scott gathered at Artussee Baptist Church June 13.

The following awards were presented:

furthest distance travelled - Carol Sue Gidden, Augusta, Maine, Jackson Scott, Medford, Ore., and Phyllis McIntosh Sanders, San Martin, Calif.

shortest distance - Bessie Scott Lara, Eufaula

most children present - Lara and Mercedes Barnett

oldest present - Kenarthe Scott

youngest present - Shannean Fields.

All 1992 graduates and people with June birthdays were presented carnations by Lillie McIntosh.

Officers for the 1993 reunion are: Luke McIntosh Jr., chair; Bessie Lara, secretary-treasurer; Morris Barnett, sergeant at arms; Gwen Barnett, food committee; and Mercedes Barnett, activity committee chair.

Anyone wishing to purchase the books *The Descendants of Seleetka McIntosh* or *The Descendants of Nancy Foster* should contact Lillie McIntosh by mail at 1328 N. Braden Ave., Tulsa, OK 74115-5343.

Society briefs

Francis fifth family reunion

EUFAULA—The Fifth Annual Francis Family Reunion will be held at Artussee Baptist Church Aug. 8. Family and friends are welcome. Those attending may bring a covered dish. Contact Rosemary Sulphur at (816) 358-2576, for more information.

Nevaquaya wins writing award

OKLAHOMA CITY — Joe Dae Tate Nevaquaya, Yuchi, of Bristow, has been chosen co-winner, in poetry, of the North American native writers' first book award, for his manuscript, *Leaving Holes*.

His work will be published by one of the participating presses. The official announcement of winners will be made at the Returning The Gift Festival in Oklahoma City in July.

Jackson, Jones excel at area schools

name

MUSKOGEE—Kim Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Jackson, graduated from West Jr. High School.

Jackson

Jackson finished fourth in her class of 200 with a 4.0 (on a scale of 4.0) grade point average.

She has been: a three-year member of the Oklahoma Junior High School Honor Society; Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, Muskogee Indian Education scholastic achievement certificate; achievement awards for science and history; Muskogee Elks Lodge outstanding female student; all-American scholar; and selected to the Muskogee High School Symphony.

Jackson is the granddaughter of the late Luella Jackson of Weleetka.

Kelly Jones

EUFAULA — Kelly Sue Jones is the co-valedictorian for the 1991-92 academic year at Eufaula Jr. High School.

Jones has maintained a 4.0 (on a scale of 4.0) grade point average.

Jones

Jones has been in the gifted and talented program for five years. Her activities include: band; basketball; softball; and 4- H. She was chosen for the Eastern Oklahoma Band Directors' Association honor band and the eastern Oklahoma honor band for two years.

She was named to the Indian Nation All-Star Basketball Team for four years. Jones is also a member of the McIntosh County 4-H club, in which she has received numerous awards in livestock and vocal music.

Jones is a member of Little Coweta Baptist Church.

She is the daughter if Mr. and Mrs. Adam Jones Jr. of Stidham. She is the granddaughter of the late Hattie and Rev. Adam Jones Sr. of Stidham. Maternal grandparent is John Jordan of Tulsa.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Obituaries

Lena Berryhill Mosquito

LIBERTY MOUNDS — Graveside funeral services for Lena Berryhill Mosquito, 60, of Liberty Mounds, were held June 29. She died June 28. She was born May 29, 1932 in Okmulgee County.

Survivors include: her husband, Joe Mosquito of Liberty Mounds; one daughter, Teri Kane of Glenpool; three sons, Ira Lynn Mosquito, Craig Mosquito, and Rex Ramone Mosquito all of Liberty Mounds; three sisters, Ella Narcho of Mesa, Ariz., Dorothy Crawford of Las Vegas, and Chiquita McNac of Okmulgee; two brothers, Joe McIntosh of Las Vegas and Jim Thorpe Berryhill of Okmulgee; and 14 grandchildren.

Interment was in the Tallahasee Cemetery.

Callie Maschal

OKLAHOMA CITY — Funeral services for Callie Maschal, 79, were held June 23 at Chapel Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City. Maschal died June 19 in Oklahoma City. She was born April 28, 1913 in Weleetka. She was preceded in death by: her mother and father, Fannie Robinson and John Rily Autry; and husband, John H. Maschal. Maschal was a housewife and an artist.

Oscar "Cat" Harjo

OKLAHOMA CITY — A memorial service was held June 23, at the Cedar River Missionary Baptist Church, for Oscar "Cat" Harjo of Holdenville. Revs. Andrew Deere and Barney Walker officiated.

Harjo, 55, died June 21 in Oklahoma Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma City. He was born August 9, 1936 in Sasakwa to Jackson and Lucy Harrison Harjo.

Survivors include: one brother and sister in law, William and Edythe Harjo of Holdenville; a half sister, Tonya Faye of Oklahoma City and several other friends and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Pallbearers were Timothy Jackson, Alex Harjo, Eddie Jackson, Herb Drawbeck, Pete Johnson, and Kenny Jackson. Honorary Pallbearers were Jimmy Harjo, James Harjo, and Jeffery John Jackson. Burial was at the Cedar River Missionary Baptist Church cemetery.

McCosar Family Cemetery meeting

HOLDENVILLE—The McCosar family cemetery meeting will be held at Many Springs Baptist Church at 10 a.m., July 18th. Those attending should bring a covered dish. Business matters concerning the McCosar family cemetery will be discussed. All families are encouraged to attend.

The McCosar Family Memorial Association is headed Rev. Willie Gooden.

Tribal affairs briefs

Executive office changes fax number

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation executive office has a new facsimile transmission number. The new number is (918) 756-2911.

"We changed fax numbers because we were having problems with the phone line," said Elizabeth Hardman, of the executive office. "The new line should be more reliable."

Other facsimile numbers at the tribal complex are listed below.

National Council - (918) 756-6812
tribal court - (918) 758-1413
housing authority - (918) 756-9218
communications department - (918) 758-0824

Creek Nation Housing Authority clarifies application procedures

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Housing Authority announces revisions in its application process.

According to a housing authority release, policies and procedures for all mutual help applications have been revised for compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

If a person has submitted an application for mutual help housing, contact the housing authority office regarding application status.

All applications must be complete with the required supporting documents to determine eligibility. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for completion before processing for approval.

Applications can be obtained at the housing authority office from the development secretary. At that time the applications process will be explained.

For inquiries regarding submitted applications, please call 1-800-259-5050 outside the Okmulgee area. Local residents are urged to call 756-8504.

Bilingual seat belt signs available

OKMULGEE — Bilingual (Mvskoke-English) seat belt awareness signs can be purchased through Oklahoma Industries, in care of Wendel Williams, at (918) 423-4700 or 1-800-522-3565. The signs are 24 by 30 inches and cost $24.97.

NIEA conference set for November

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—The National Indian Education Association will hold its 1992 annual conference in Albuquerque Nov. 15 through 19. The host organization for the '92 conference is the American Indian Graduate Center, a national Indian organization which provides assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native students in graduate and professional programs throughout the country.

Loren "Bum" Stiffarm, president of the NIEA board of directors said he expects more than 3,000 participants from throughout the country for the conference.

This has been a very active year for Indian education, beginning in January with the White House Conference on Indian Education Stiffarm said. The Indian Nations at-risk task force report was also released this year.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is also doing an internal study on reorganizing its education programs.

"These major studies, as well as other issues, will be on the agenda at the NIEA conference," Stiffarm said.

Language classes offered in Sapulpa

SAPULPA — Creek language classes are being offered in Sapulpa on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The instructors are Linda Alexander, Oklahoma City, and Pam Innes, Norman.

The fee is $1.50 per class.

For more information, contact Robin L. Washington at (918) 299-2621, ext. 119, between 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and (918) 224-3955, after 6 p.m.

Rabies cases increasing in Oklahoma

OKMULGEE — Seventy-seven cases of rabies have been confirmed in Oklahoma this year, with the most significant portion of those because of skunks, says Donna Frank of the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health.

"The increase in number of confirmed rabies in the Creek Nation area has all health care providers and physicians busy," said Frank, who is a registered sanitarian.

Rabies is transmitted by a bite from a rabid animal to man. The wound is contaminated by the saliva of the infected animal, Frank said.

Anyone who is bitten should immediately wash the wound with soap and have a doctor examine the wound. Tetanus and other infections may also result from animal bites.

Advise the doctor on the circumstances of the bite, identify the kind of animal, and the animal's location.

This information will be reported to Frank per hospital regulations. She will then report it to the county health departments and, in cases where the bite occurs on Indian land, the Creek Nation Lighthorse administration

"Having law enforcement available makes the investigation procedure much easier," said Frank. "If a dog or cat bites someone, law enforcement can make provisions for the confinement and observation of the animal for the following 10 days."

Frank said the pet owner will be charged for the boarding of any domesticated animal.

Responsible pet owners may help prevent rabies, within their community, by doing the following:

— have your dog or cat routinely vaccinated
— obey leash and licensing laws;
— report all stray dogs to local animal control or the Creek Nation Lighthorsemen;
— do not keep wild animals as pets; and
— teach children to avoid strange animals, especially wild animals.

Some animals are more likely to be infected with the rabies virus including: raccoons; skunks; guinea pigs; gerbils; chipmunks; gophers; rats; and mice.

"Remember, prevention starts with the individual. Be a responsible pet owner," Frank said. "Protect yourself and your pet by having them vaccinated and maintaining vaccination records."

Being bit by an animal may be a traumatic experience for some, however, if the person has to under go rabies immunization, that may be even more traumatic, Frank said.

Additional information may be obtained through the Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health, Okmulgee, (918) 756-8571.

Creek officials praise tribal relief efforts and cooperation

continued from page 1

Housing Authority, said he was pleased with the spirit of cooperation and concern that was present at Glenpool.

The Glenpool Indian Community provided office space at its community center for the assistance agencies.

"We appreciate the Glenpool Indian Community's efforts in providing us with a working place, use of phones, and other equipment necessary to maintain a satellite office there," Jackson said.

Gibson said the Creek Nation did an "outstanding job" providing assistance, making temporary repairs, and relocating victims.

Ken Childers, chair of the Glenpool Indian Community and the housing authority board of commissioners, said several tribal officials stopped by the community center to visit.

"I believe the people were relieved and glad to see the (Principal Chief Bill Fife) and other tribal officials in Glenpool," Childers said. "I am very thankful no one was physically injured and I hope these misfortunes are behind us and we can be strengthened from this disaster."

While Gibson and others expressed satisfaction with response times, some citizens told a Tulsa television station they were dissatisfied with the delays.

Jackson, however, said the delays were because of federal housing regulations and did not reflect on the desire of the housing authority to make repairs.

"We sincerely pray that each and every family affected has received the assistance they required such as housing, food, and clothing," Jackson said. "We wish each of them well as they recover from the damage this storm has forced upon them.

"We will continue to work until each family is back into their homes or have their homes completely repaired."

ATTENTION

Muscoge **NOTICE**

The Creek Nation will be conducting a random survey of Creek citizens, asking you to rate the quality of services provided by the tribal government and to identify socio-economic needs.

If you receive a questionaire, please respond as soon as possible.

Your participation will help the tribal government better serve you.

Bill S. Fife, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Crow praises efforts of tribal agencies

by Shelly Crow, Second Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

The devastating windstorm that hit the Glenpool community June 19 brought about the results that management can sometimes strive for years to accomplish - networking with outside agencies and team work within the Creek Nation tribal organization.

Within hours of the incident, the Creek Nation housing authority was on the scene assessing damages for the Indian community, notifying the insurance company, and arranging for an adjustor to be made available. On June 20, housing authority employees arrived to assist residents with claim filing, relocation, and securing damaged homes. The next day brought more housing authority employees along with National Council members, Principal Chief Bill Fife and myself. These officials spent the entire day reassuring residents, assessing damages, and networking with outside agencies to assure that residents had adequate shelter, food, and clothing.

On June 22, a wide range of tribal program personnel were available for residents in an attempt to meet the needs of the community. Bunny Hill, social services, Woody Anderson, tribal affairs director, and Robert Trepp, policy analyst, were there for intake for emergency financial assistance and to coordinate other services.

Sapulpa Health Center and the community health representative program provided public health nurses and community health representatives for medical needs assessment. The Indian child welfare staff took applications for children's clothing and child care services. Personnel service was also there taking applications from community members for employment with contractors that would be doing home repairs.

The lighthorse administration was there to assist Glenpool Police Chief Larry Bible and his staff with security. The Glenpool community staff did an excellent job of preparing for and coordinating all services. Without their footwork, this could never have been accomplished.

The American Red Cross is to be commended for their immediate response and assistance. Indian Health Service sent Jim Sutterfield from the Oklahoma City area office of environmental health to do an environmental assessment.

In all, it was a commendable effort and an excellent example of team work. All tribal services are to be commended as well as the housing authority, the housing authority board, the office of the principal chief, the Red Cross, and especially, the Glenpool Indian Community staff.

Even though there was some negative publicity, much was accomplished by tribal officials, employees and outside agencies. The National Council appropriated $25,000 for emergency assistance and an additional $85,000 was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for emergency assistance.

Twenty-three families were assisted with shelter, 10 by the housing authority and 13 by the Red Cross. The Creek Nation Housing Authority is still maintaining a satellite office in Glenpool and currently plan to have repairs completed within 30 days.

A special thank you to all those involved.

Agencies unite to deliver disaster relief

continued from page 1

Housing authority chair Ken Childers said the housing authority staff arrived in Glenpool immediately following the storm.

Childers said staff began putting temporary roofing on some homes that night, using flashlights for lighting.

Not all residents are pleased with the authority's efforts.

Some residents expressed disappointment with the efforts to restore services and repair homes.

Celia Hicks, a Choctaw, told a Tulsa television station that the combined agencies' efforts were slow.

Childers said he was disappointed that a few Indian residents would "belittle various Creek and national agencies" providing assistance.

"On Monday after the storm, the housing commissioners met with insurance adjusters and visited the site," Childers said. "The housing authority has now contracted with construction companies to repair the damaged homes and the permanent work began July 7."

Several tribal officials visited Glenpool to survey the damage and offer assistance.

Principal Chief Bill Fife, Second Chief Shelly Crow, Tulsa District Representatives Larry Bible and Jerry Wilson, both Glenpool residents, Jackson and Childers were present June 20. Other Tulsa District reps. visiting the site were Irene Cleghorn and Pat Kelley.

photo by Gerald Wofford

Childers said he believed most of the affected residents were "relieved and glad" to see the chief and other officials.

Jackson said any perceived delay in action was related to regulations.

"If there was any apparent delay, it was because of the administrative procedures we must follow, including (Housing and Urban Development) rules and Temporary offices were set up at the Glenpool Indian Community Center for housing, children and family services, and social services intake workers. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Veterans' Administration also worked from the community center.

Hospital striving for improvements

continued from page 1

Gayler said that the hospital is now providing ultrasound examinations.

"We're one of the few hospitals around with a technician," Gayler said.

The new phone system also has several advantages, Harjo said.

"The system has more features than the previous one. We now have clarity and dependability," Harjo said. "Before, wet weather always caused problems here."

Other physical changes include replacing an outdated mobile modular building with a permanent structure that will house nine offices.

While the physical part of the hospital has improved, so has the procedural.

A new accounting system has allowed the hospital to keep contracts current. One of the complaints lodged against the previous tribal administration was that federal contracts were not closed.

Harjo said the new system will be "more up-to-date."

"We're not going to allow contracts to go unclosed for long periods," Harjo said. "We're going to keep our contracts current."

Perhaps the improvement with the greatest impact on the hospital has been the collection of third-party payments. Third-party payments are those made by insurance, medicare, and medicaid.

Harjo said more than $1 million in third-party payments has been collected since Nov 1.

Harjo attributes this to an improved billing system and an "aggressive desire" to collect the payments.

Harjo says the hospital is now medicare and medicaid certified, making them eligible for third-party funds.

"We can collect from any third-party resource," Harjo said.

The increased collections have been beneficial to the hospital. A more modern ambulance was purchased with third-party funds.

A surgery program has also been started with third-party funds.

"We've always done minor outpatient surgery here," Adair said. "Now we're able to do some elective surgeries and that makes it much easier for the patient."

Adair said patients can now have some surgery done at Okemah instead of traveling to Indian Health Service hospitals in Claremore or Ada and that can aid the patient's recovery.

"People seem to be more comfortable here, closer to home," Adair said.

Harjo said the elective surgery program has set aside $50,000 initially, to meet expenses, with a goal of $75,000. Harjo emphasized that the hospital is paying any costs involved with third party funds and not using IHS monies.

Despite these, and other improvements, many people lack an understanding about the services the hospital provides.

Patient advocate Rita Williams echoed that sentiment.

"There is more accountability in the health system and the tribe as well," Williams said. "But, too often people just don't know what to do and where to go for services."

Contract health service procedure listed

The Creek Nation healthcare system's hospital and clinics are open to serve an Indian population of more than 50,000.

The facilities cannot always provide a full-range of care. Some cases may require a referral to a non-Indian hospital or doctor.

This care, when authorized, is paid through the contract health service program, administered at the Creek Nation Community Hospital.

It is one of the most important elements of the health care delivery systems for Indians.

Eligibility:

- an individual is considered eligible provided they are of Indian descent and a member of a federally-recognized tribe;

- the patient must reside within the defined boundaries of the Creek Nation; and

- the patient must use all other resources to pay for care, such as medicare, medicaid, veterans' administration, workman's compensation, title 19, and-or private insurance.

The Creek Nation contract health service program is the payer of last resort.

The contract health service program has policies set forth which determine what services can and cannot be paid.

The program may pay for hospitalization, outpatient care, and emergency room services on the basis of medical priorities established in the Creek Nation healthcare system and the availability of funds.

Medical priorities are as follows:

category one - emergency and acutely urgent care services;

category two - preventive care;

category three - primary and secondary care services;

category four - chronic tertiary and extended care services; and

category five - excluded services.

Referral procedure

If an eligible person requires care that is not available at our facility, or an Indian Health Service facility, a referral is made to a private hospital or physician. Determination for payment for the referral is based on medical priority, eligibility, and availability of funds. The referral does not constitute any committment for payment of services.

If additional procedures, tests, follow-up, hospitalization, etc., are required, patients should return for another referral.

Non-referral procedure for emergency services

In emergency cases for services received at a non-Indian hospital and-or doctor's office, where a person was unable to get to an Indian hospital or clinic, the Creek Nation Community Hospital will need to be notified within 72 hours (three days) after the beginning of treatment or after hospital admission. Authorization for payment will be determined on the basis of the medical priorities, eligibilty, and availability of funds.

If an emergency occurs on a weekend or a holiday, please call the Creek Nation Community Hospital contract health office the next working day. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Appeal procedure

Any person to whom payment for contract health services has been denied is entitled to be notified in writing stating the reason(s) for denial. The letter will include the reasons for the denial and explains the rights of appeal.

The patient then has 30 days from receipt of the letter to appeal to the director of the Creek Nation health system in Okemah.

The patient's appeal letter must contain additional suppporting information. If the original decision is upheld, the next level of appeal is to the Indian Health Service Oklahoma City Area Office.

For more information, contact Laura Mackey, contract health specialist, at (918) 623-1424.

Tribe seeking recognition of reservation status

continued from page 3

before" citizens for consideration in a tribal referendum.

Cox said later that reservation status is a step backward.

"Reservation Indians were dealt with like prisoners of war and were dependent on the federal government for everything. We've never been like that."

Cox said Creeks have a different history, culture, and no land base to justify reservation status. Cox also believes the state of Oklahoma would like to see the tribe assume reservation status.

"If I were the state, and I saw the tribe go into reservation status, the first thing I would do is tell the federal government 'they've admitted they can't handle (sovereignty).'

"Why in the world do we want to go backward? Is a few more bucks from the bureau really worth it?"

The bill is on the Council's July 25 agenda. It was tabled at the June session because Jerry Wilson, the bill's author, was absent.

Trepp said the administration will pursue the recognition.

"Even if we lose the first couple of rounds, we're going to keep after it,' Trepp said. "It's essential to the tribe's future."

Court adds three

continued from page 3

Cox.

Hayes, Flud, and Frye join Cox appointees Chief Justice Joe Johnson and Justice Richard Lerblance on the tribal high court.

Johnson of Eufaula, was appointed to the court in 1987. Lerblance, a Hartshorne attorney, was Cox's last confirmed appointment to the Supreme Court.

The final seat on the six-member court is pending. Fife has nominated Amos McNac of Bristow, for the sixth seat. His appointment was to have been considered at the council's July 16 planning session.

1992 Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo review

Festival draws largest crowd ever

More than 12,000 people visited the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo looking for entertainment, action, and fellowship.

The 1992 festival offered more events for every age group. The seniors had their games as did the little children. Those in between could bowl or golf.

Even the pow wow drew more than 300 people.

Of course, the softball tournaments, the rodeo, the little olympics, and the volleyball tournament continued to draw players and spectators from across the nation.

It's understood though, that biggest draw of the festival is the people.

The rains came on the opening night of the festival. It delayed the openings of several events and caused many a mud-bogged Indian car.

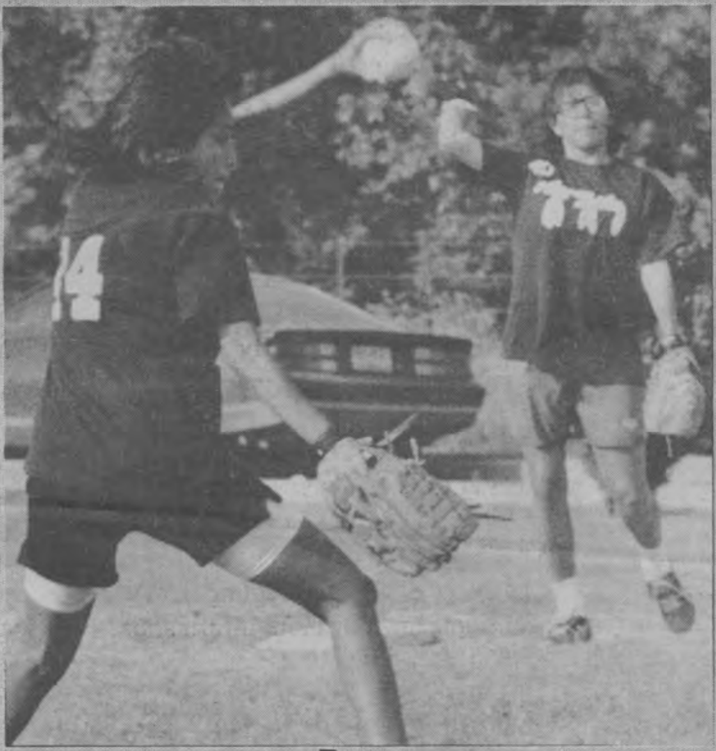
But the rains didn't keep anyone away.

The crowds were well behaved said Barton Williams, the tribe's top law enforcement official.

And why not?

After all, it is the festival.

1991-92 rodeo queen Lori McKinney



Beaver

All-tribes take tournament

Oklahoma City All-tribes won their second consecutive women's fast pitch softball tournament. OC All-Tribes defeated Bacone, 8-2, in the finals, which ended at 12:30 a.m., Monday.

Dee Beaver, All-tribes mound ace, was named the "most valuable player" of the tournament.

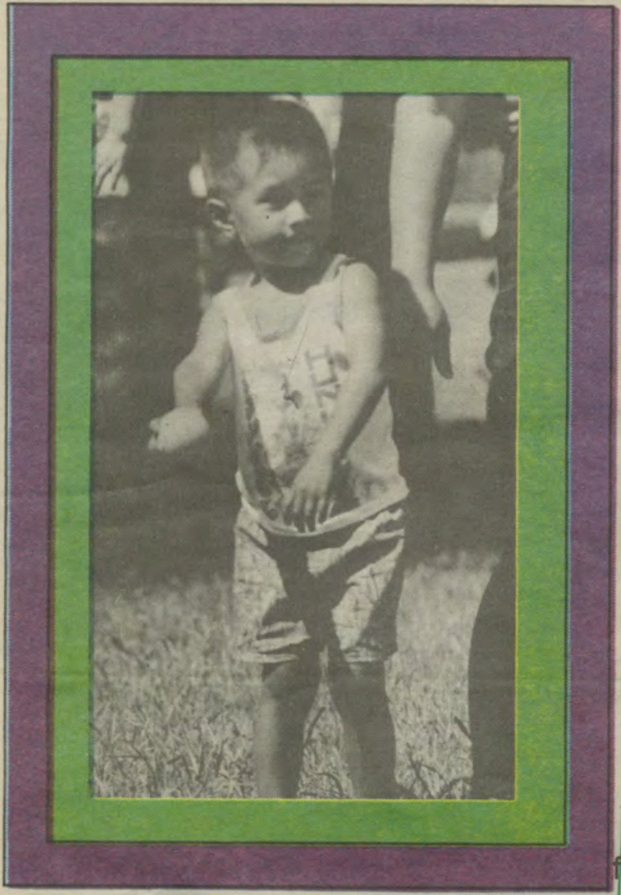
Following Bacone was the Running Reds of Tulsa in third place. Little Axe finished fourth in the 14-team field.

An all-star team was selected from the top three teams. Named to the team were Carrie Girty, Jenna Greenwald, and Kimmie Winds, all of the Running Reds.

Named from the All-tribes team were Nicki Kaseka, Serena Hill and Pam Gibson.

An eager childrens' game participant.

photos by Stephanie Berryhill
text and design by Stephanie Berryhill and Jim Wolfe



A future festival fastpitch player?

nobreak

It was volleyball with a twist. Mudball, really.

22 teams entered the tournament and Team Work of Tahlequah took top honors.

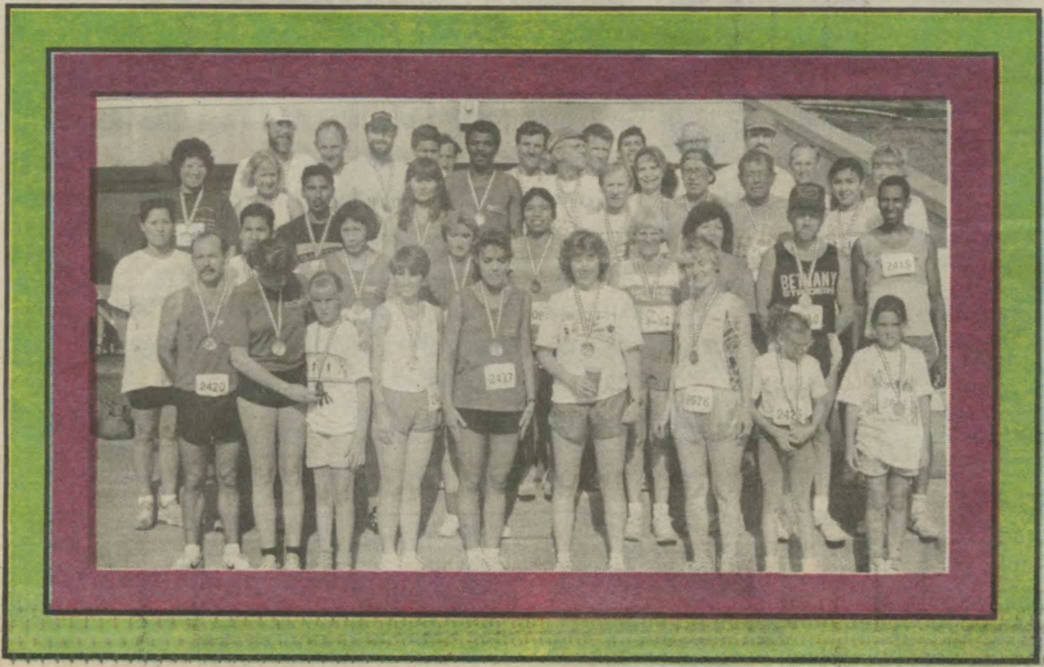
The Youngbloods of Tulsa, came in second place. The Okemah Wranglers placed third and the Turley (Tulsa) team finished fourth and was also awarded the sportsmanship trophy.

Pigeon, Mann win golf titles

Daryl Pigeon of Tahlequah, won two events in the festival golf tournament. Pigeon won the championship flight and the longest drive contest on the Fountainhead Golf Course. Nora Birdshead won the longest drive among the women, while Junior Ross won the men's closest to the hole contest and Marian Mitchell was the women's winner.

The winners in the various flights included the following.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: 1st, Daryl Pigeon; 2nd, Chub Guess; 3rd, Will Freeman; 4th, Mike Tompson
A FLIGHT: 1st, Dwight Imotichey; 2nd, Jr. Ross; 3rd, Clifford Birdshead; 4th, Robert Beach
B FLIGHT: 1st, Darrell Sanders; 2nd, Lawrence Johnson; 3rd, Stan Hummingbird; 4th, Russell Dillard
C FLIGHT: 1st, Joe Clay; 2nd, Jeff Iron; 3rd, Harold Tsadi; 4th, (tie) Dwatie Wacoche and Steve Bruner
SENIORS: 1st, Henry Ben; 2nd, Amon Baker; 3rd, Jack Garland; 4th, Leo Brausell
WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: 1st, Judy Mann; 2nd, Nora Birdshead; 3rd, Shirley James
A FLIGHT: 1st, Patsy Bevenue; 2nd, Pat Bartmess; 3rd, Janell Johnson



Bemo, Hill win first festival run

Skeet Bemo and Susan Hill were the overall male and female winners of the first festival 5k run.

Bemo of Sapulpa,finished in 16:53,

Hill of Glenpool, led the women runners with a time of 22:03. Other winners in the various age groups included the following:

12-under girls, Kaycee Pullian, Bristow, 35:04; 16-19 boys, Warren Yazzie, Oklahoma City, 20:12; 13-15 girls, Cherrah Ridge, Tulsa, 23:29; 20-24 women, Stephanie Berryhill, Henryetta, 25:33;

20-24 men, Bemo; 25-29 women, Hill; 25-29 men, Danny Schooler, Bristow, 19:50; 30-34 women, Ronda Cooper, Bristow, 24:34; 30-34, men Donnie Harris, Hennessey, 17:12;

35-39 women, Peggy Redden, Sapulpa, 28:32; 35-39 men, Jon Finnegan, Tulsa, 17:22; 40-44 women, Patty Young, Tulsa, 34:44; 50-54 men, Tom Ford, Oklahoma City, 19:06; 60-64 women, Opal Alexander, Tulsa, 30:44; 60-64 men, Bat Shuatona, Shawnee, 30:40; over 65 men, Fisher Lewis, Bethany, 25:42

Bowling tourney features perfect game

A 300 game highlighted the festival bowling tournament at Beeline Bowl.

Bob King rolled the perfect game during the third game of the 3 p.m. session. He was teamed with Jonas Yahola as they totalled 446 pins for third place.

The winners from the various groups included the following.

12:00, first game: 1st, Mike Walker and Herman Wahpekeche, 429; 2nd, Clifton Smith and Robin Henry, 423; 3rd, Beverly Manley and James Walker, 417.

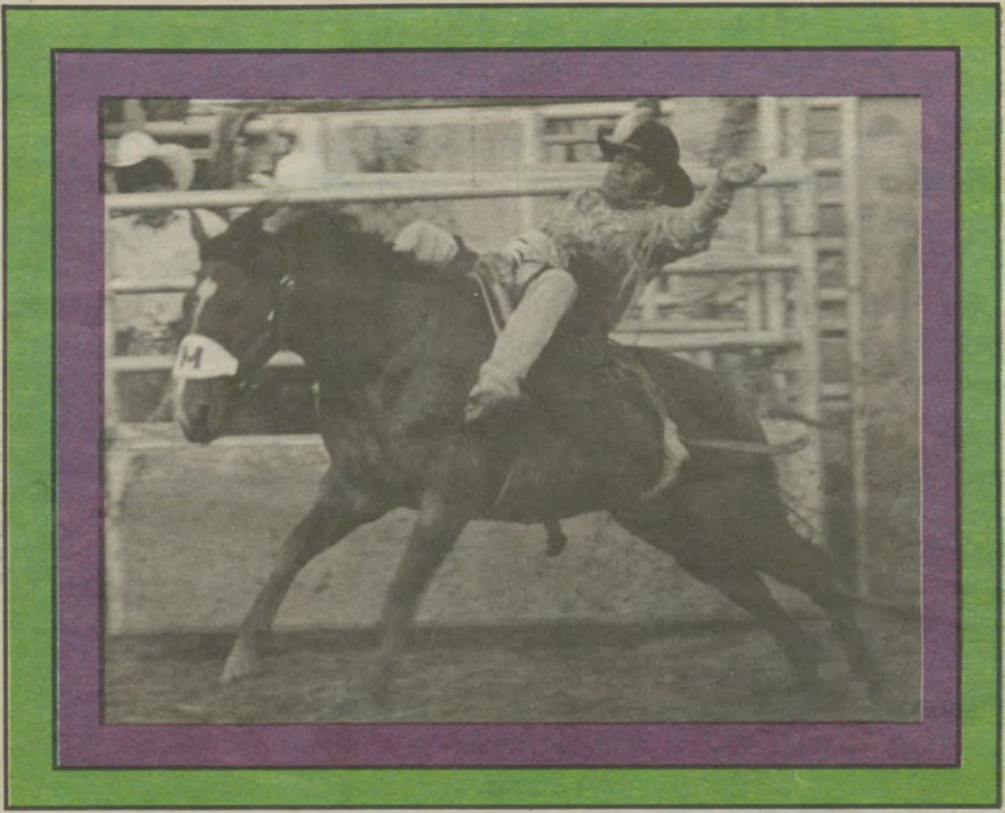
3:00, first game: 1st, Robert Walker and Lahoma Goodblanket, 458; 2nd, Phyliss McGown and Vernon Manley, 450; 3rd, Jim Thompson and Ben Gibson 443.

12:00 second game: 1st, Mike Owings and Joe Manley, 460; 2nd, John Thomas and David Mahtgrene, 443; 3rd, Jim Thompson and Ben Gibson, 443.

3:00 second game: Butch Powell and Kendall Thompson, 495; 2nd, Chooch Fields and Rusty Coffey, 478; 3rd, Barbara Roy and Carol Powell, 441.

12:00 third game: 1st, Mike Owings and Kendall Thompson, 474; 2nd, Rusty Coffey and Sharon Grits 457; 3rd, Jim Harjo and Rita Yahola, 425.

3:00 third game: 1st Butch Powell and Charles Bailey, 516; 2nd, Anna King and Barbara Roy, 461; 3rd, Jonas Yahola and Bob King, 446.



Haskell takes fourth consecutive festival title

The Haskell Indians made it four consecutive festival titles this year in the men's fastpitch softball tournament.

Haskell won the title after the Kansas-Oklahoma All-stars decided to forfeit the final game because of time. The final game was to be played at 3 a.m., Monday, but the All-stars decided to leave, giving the championship to Haskell.

The Bristow Indian Community's team came in third and Dry Creek was the fourth place team in the 24-team field.

Reluctant childrens' games participants are coerced by moms and big brothers.(below)

Okfuskee District Representative Mae Jackson and friend croon at the festival gospel singing.

"I can't say enough good things about Carney Roberts (festival committee chair). He's a jewel and he works under pressure really well.

"(Members) Bob Arington and Bunny Hill brought a lot of experience to the festival committee. If the Creek people enjoyed the festival, they should thank these men for their work."

- Donna Frank , festival committee secretary

Leigh Anne Downing of Calvin, is the new Miss Creek Nation.

"The Okfuskee Indian Community did an outstanding job. They were represented at every committee meeting. They never complained. They always worked. They embody the spirit of the festival."

— Frank

Coker, Hicks selected elders of the year

Charlie Coker of Haskell, and Eliza Hicks of Henryetta, were chosen Creek elders of the year during the festival's elders' honors program.

Two young festival-goers attend their first of many festivals to follow.

By any previous standard, the 1992 edition of the Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo was successful.

For the second consecutive year, an attendance record was set. This is also the second consecutive year that Bob Arrington, Donna Frank, Bunny Hill, and Carney Roberts have served on the festival committee.

Coincidence? Hardly.

The festival committee is near the completion of its two-year term. There are still reports to file, calls to make, etc.,...

In an era when political appointees collect stipends to attend meetings at conferences in faraway places, the unpaid festival committee seems out of the ordinary — a throw-back to a time when sacrifice and service were reward enough.

The outgoing festival committee is to be commended. So too should the volunteers who worked for the good of all and not for personal gain or glory.

For the thousands that flock to the festival the third weekend in June each year, the festival is history. For the planners and the policy-makers, work on the 19th festival should begin.

The festival has outgrown the tribe's facilities.

Shade, water, sewer, adequate parking, workable budgets, and facilities are needed desperately. Only so many brush arbors can be built, tents erected, and plastic toilets planted.

There is no reason to believe the next festival won't draw more people. Or the 20th festival. It's time for all of those with ideas to make themselves heard.

- Jim Wolfe

Dave Wind of the Berryhill Quartet, performed for elders and those in attendance at the elders' honors program.

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 8
P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
August 1992, 12 Pages

Brother's memory helps Tiger deal with HIV

Lisa Tiger draws spiritual strength through the memory of her brother

stories by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

MUSKOGEE — Lisa Tiger scurries back and forth from the Tiger Art Gallery to her matting and framing shop in back of the family business.

Between her comings and goings she will occasionally glance at a picture — a picture she has not been able to look at for over two years. But since she recently tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, she often glances at the handsome, solemn, young man — gaining much-needed spiritual strength and love from the memory of her murdered brother.

The 26-year-old defies most people's stereotypes of HIV infected individuals. She's robust, pretty, monogamous, and has never intravenously injected drugs.

"I was considered to be in the low risk group. (Now HIV) is everyone's problem. If it could happen to me, it could happen to anybody."

She feels obligated to share her experience with others and to educate the public, specifically women and Native Americans, so they can protect themselves against HIV infection. Since testing HIV-positive in early July, the Muscogee (Creek) tribal member has been scheduled for numerous speaking engagements and forum panels, including the AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) Coalition of Tulsa, Indian Health Service clinics, and a women's prison with a high percentage of incarcerated native females.

With the rapidly increasing number of Native Americans with HIV and AIDS, Tiger feels tribes should provide HIV preventive education, testing, and counseling to tribal members.

"(Tribes) should encourage Native American women (and men) to be tested yearly for life. The earlier they are tested, the longer they can get medication," allowing health care professionals to treat HIV early, thus enabling infected people

please see **TIGER**..., page 12

"(HIV) is everyone's problem. If it could happen to me, it could happen to anybody."

— Lisa Tiger

photo by
Stephanie Berryhill

Tiger files report to protect others from HIV

MUSKOGEE — When Lisa Tiger met her former boyfriend in 1988, she didn't believe HIV or AIDS existed in her hometown of 38,000 people.

But after testing HIV-positive on July 5, Tiger contends she contracted the virus from her former boyfriend — who knowingly put her at risk to infection.

In late July she filed a report with the Muskogee Police Department. Currently Detective

please see **REPORT**..., page 12

Mouss returns to tribe as health services administrator

OKMULGEE — The man who had a significant role in the development of the Creek Nation Community Hospital is returning to the tribe as director of the division of health administration.

Ed Mouss of Henryetta, received confirmation for the director's position at the July session of the National Council.

Mouss will come to the tribe through the Intergovernment Personnel Act. He is the deputy associate director with the office of information resources management at Indian Health Services headquarters in Rockville, Md. Indian tribes are eligible to participate in the IPA program because of the self-governance act.

As administrator of the Creek Nation Community Hospital, Mouss was responsible for financing and the re-opening of the facility under tribal auspices.

From 1973 through 1978, Mouss was the tribe's executive director. He has also served as a council representative, election board representative, Creek Nation Housing Authority board member, chair of the tribal constitutional committee, and president of the Creek Nation Development and Construction Company. Mouss also ran unsuccessfully for principal chief in 1983.

Principal Chief Bill Fife told the Council at the July planning session that Mouss is well qualified for the director's position and is capable of developing and implementing a comprehensive management plan for the tribe's health system. Fife also acknowledged that Mouss is his brother-in-law.

Planning and management are considered Mouss's strengths. He is thought to be one of Fife's closest advisors. Both were instrumental in the development of many of the programs in the 1970s and early 80s, that the tribe contracts and operates today.

Earlier, the chief issued an executive order reorganizing the health system and returning all of the components to the tribal administration from independent agency status.

Tulsa District Representative Jerry Wilson said Mouss is an excellent organizer and thinker.

As director, Mouss will have administrative responsibilities for the tribe's health care system including health and dental clinics in Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee and Sapulpa, the Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, and the health care programs. Mouss' starting date has not been determined as details of the IPA agreement are being negotiated.

Second chief offers her revisions to improve tribal government

by Shelly Crow, Second Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

I recently attended a work group where they used David Osborne and Ted Gaebler's book *Reinventing Government.* After attending this work group and purchasing the book, I began to look at our form of government with a different perspective. The following ten points are from the book and reflect my ideas on how they could be implemented into our organization:

1)"steer more than row" — The course of the reorganization process requires finding personnel with the unique capabilities of being able to steer, set policies, develop procedures, and objectively evaluate the process and operating personnel without getting into the rowing process. Perhaps this comes from the fact that many of the people come from the rowing ranks, and this is expected of them from their peers. However, this group of people must chart the course by clearly defining the organization's missions and goals. The second step requires giving the operational personnel the authority to row, even if this requires not touching the paddle and allowing them to row at a different pace than management would themselves row. Hopefully, in the near future we will have the personnel in both areas to accomplish this. We are well on our way to accomplishing this with the reorganization process.

2)"empower communities rather than simply deliver services" — We are often required to do too much for our citizens through programs, when we should be searching for that rare community individual that is willing to devote the time and effort of assuring that services are delivered to their community in an effective and efficient manner. This will often mean many hours of manual and mental effort to implement organizational ideas at the community level, and then assure the mission is being carried out. This could mean a community with initiative to contract to deliver services if the organization is not doing an efficient and effective job of service delivery. However, we must first clearly define the mission of the organization of these communities. Since a democracy type of government is devoted to the people, these individual communities must first buy the mission as defined by their government (elected officials).

3)"encourage competition rather than monopoly" — Government as usual is a bureaucracy, and bureaucracies create monopolies. This is probably the biggest challenge to governmental leadership. It is difficult to encourage competition within a bureaucracy. Perhaps our first step should be to focus on outcomes and restructure the reward system to encourage positive outcomes. If service delivery is the objective, what do we expect the outcome to be after services have been delivered. If the outcome is as expected or exceeds the expected, perhaps we should be rewarding the people doing the rowing, in lieu of basing everything on what is expected according to the position description and personal background. Even though the personal background would reflect an expectation for positive outcomes, we must assure the outcomes are as expected; this is a part of the steering process.

4)"are driven by their mission" not their rules — Many times it is more convenient for administration and management to implement rules rather than accept the consequences of good management when the organizational mission is not being accomplished. Therefore, it is imperative that management and operational personnel have the same vision of the organizational goals. If operational personnel have input and are reflecting a clear understanding of the organizational goals, the reward system positive outcomes can be expected.

5)"fund outcomes rather than inputs" — This is a crucial portion of the reward system. Too often administration and managers fail to recognize or reward positive outcomes, forgetting that it is operations that carries out the functions of the policies and procedures and actually produce positive outcomes or results for the organization. It is these people who earn the trust of the people that our government functions for. Osborne and Gaebler state, "If you can't reward success, you're probably rewarding failure." Therefore, it is imperative that we be able to recognize and reward successful accomplishments.

6)"meet the needs of the customer, not the bureaucracy" — We must determine the needs of our citizens. This can be done in many ways: personal contact; random surveys; focus groups; tracking systems; or other numerous methods. However, the bottom line must be customer or client driven systems. Osborne and Gaebler look at many ways in which funding is placed at the control of the customer, i.e. voucher systems, number of customers served, etc. The basic concept is "...they get their funds from their customer, rather than from a legislature, they also have far greater incentives to invest in innovation."

One of the best ideas of the customer-driven system is the belief that the system should be "user-friendly". "Customers, should not be faced with a confusing maze of fragmented programs conflicting eligibility requirements, and multiple forms to fill out." This is definitely a current problem with our system, which we are currently trying to alleviate, and hope to accomplish within the near future.

7)"concentrate on earning, not just spending" — "The tax revolt... is here to stay. We have to guarantee future revenues by creating new revenue sources," states Gale Wilson, former city manager, Fairfield, Calif. This is certainly true with Indian tribes. We must place more concentration on economic development, seeking innovative ideas to accomplish self-sufficiency, and establish an enterprising government.

8)"investing in prevention rather than cure" — We must learn to anticipate and strategically plan the future direction

please see CROW..., page 11

Letters to the editor

Muskogee reader praises Methodist board

Editor:

I would like to express publicly my appreciation to Newman Frank Sr., chairman, and the other trustees at the United Methodist Oklahoma Indian Missionary Annual Conference at the Northeast District Assembly Gournd, near Preston. The board made accomodations for our elderly and disabled people with the use of golf carts for transporting people to the camphouses, tabernacles, and other places. It was a great help.

There were 27 tribes represented at the conference. The 44 Methodist churches in the northeast district were well represented.

Helen Chupco, Muskogee

Editor's note: Chupco is a Muskogee District Representative to the National Council.

Sapulpa family appreciates tribal paper

Editor:

We appreciate your work there at the paper and the opportunity that you give others to enable them to express ideas, suggestions, and the news items that are sent out each month.

Thank you for allowing us to send this obituary about our mother (Mary Bevenue). She was an avid reader of your paper and we will miss her much.

Virginia Bevenue Rangel, Sapulpa

Arizona reader questions newspaper's timing

Editor:

I enjoy reading the Creek newspaper, but the paper seems to be constantly late. Many of the events have already taken place. I received the June paper on June 30th

Stephen Partridge, Sherwood, Ariz.

Editor's note: The MNN is mailed third class, the same as junk mail, hence the late arrival of the paper to our out-of-state subscribers. Additionally, the target date for publication of the MNN is the 15th of each month. Technological improvements in fiscal year 1993 with third class mailing should improve delivery time.

To ensure ample time to promote an event, submissions should be given to the tribal communications office four to six weeks in advance.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the tribal capitol complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News,* unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News,* guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News,* its advisors, or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-visual specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson

The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as a public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursday, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Friday, 8 a.m., Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
KRAF-Holdenville, 1370, Saturday, 3 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sunday, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturday, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sunday, 7 a.m.
KUSH-Cushing, am 1600, Saturday, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Awarded for general excellence by the Native American Journalists Association

Council funds eyeglass, emergency medical services programs

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council identified funding sources for the eyeglass assistance and the emergency medical aid services programs at its July session at the capitol complex.

The 31-member tribal legislature approved the eyeglass assistance program at its June session in Okmulgee, but a motion was made to reconsider the bill to identify a proper funding source for the $45,000 program.

The program will be implemented by the community services division.

The Council also supplemented the emergency medical aid services program from fiscal year 1993 bingo revenues. Eleven thousand dollars was appropriated for the program.

In other business, the Council:

— approved the physical plant maintenance and capital improvement policy. The legislation creates a sinking fund and programs reserve funds in the comprehensive budget for maintenance on tribal facilties. The bill also requires the development of a plan for servicing existing facilities and landscaping;

— appropriated $60,000 from 1993 bingo revenues to fund the Tulsa Creek Indian Community smokeshop. The Council also authorized a facilities use agreement for the community at the Mackey sandbar site at 81st and Riverside;

— acknowledged that public participation requirements have been met and set aside an acre of land east of the Independent Agencies building at the tribal capitol complex for a proposed tribal develoment center;

— appropriated $18,852.58 interest income from a public law 100-297 grant for the Eufaula Dormitory. The money will be placed in the dormitory's operating expense line item;

— authorized the transfer of $36,670.50 from the legal rights fund under the office of justice to the attorney general's office;

— amended the tribe's orthodontics program to require that participants be enrolled tribal members;

— granted a corporate charter under provisions of the tribal industrial code to Asbury, Brooks, and Canady, a Sand Springs firm. The business group intends to build an industrial park near Eufaula;

— requested an evaluation of the public address system in the Independent Agencies Building mound auditorium; and

— authorized *The Muscogee Nation News* to accept commercial display advertising from chartered communities, tribal organizations, and tribal business people.

The Council also approved several appointments at the July session including Ed Mouss as tribal health systems administrator. Mouss, the former executive director for the tribe, is an Indian Health Service administrator.

Other Council confirmations include:

— Amos McNac of Bristow, to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court;

— Cleo Robison, manager of the Middle Creek Ranch, Dustin, to the farm authority board;

— Frank Kamp of Eufaula, to the economic development board. Kamp is a former National Council representative from McIntosh District;

— J.D. Colbert of Hulbert, to the economic development board. Colbert is the president of the First National Bank of Hulbert;

— Toske Willits to the tribal citizenship board. This is Willits second term to the citizenship board; and

— George Tiger of Eufaula, to the citizenship board. Tiger was approved earlier by the Council and his latest appointment is for a three-year term.

Council approves emergency funding for flood

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved disaster relief funding for victims of an August 5 flood in northwest McIntosh County and Henryetta at an Aug. 6, special session.

The Council appropriated $20,000 from 1993 bingo revenues to provide relief for vicitms of the Coal Creek flood. Water levels rose as high as six feet in some homes and forced the evacuation of several families.

Social workers and other tribal officials established an office at the Henryetta municipal center.

In other business, the Council:

— authorized the Creek Nation Housing Authority to apply for approximately 1,000 additional housing units from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;

— authorized the deposit of $202,346.46 from the tobacco revenues account in an Indian Health Service account to meet IHS requirements.

The money represents the amount of funds advanced the tribe before Dec. 31, 1991.

Another $194,624.83 will be transferred from the hospital operating account to the contract health account. Both amounts are part of a settlement between IHS and the tribe to resolve a dispute of unaccounted and unauthorized fund usage;

— amended NCA 91-93 to allow the tribe's head start department to receive cost-of-living increases. The increases are part of the federal government's contract requirements. NCA 91-93 restricted cost-of-living increases without authorization from the Council; and

— appropriated $8,000 to supplement the children and family services administration budget for the remainder of fiscal year 1992 (through Sep. 30). The money is needed for foster care reimbursements.

Historic jury trials expected in September, Supreme Court seats filled

OKMULGEE — The first of two jury trials for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, since the adoption of the 1979 constitution, is to be held by October.

On July 26, tribal district court judge Patrick Moore ordered juries to be impaneled for two cases.

The first, is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Nancy Emma Lowe of Holdenville, for assualt and battery. Lowe allegedly assaulted Susanna Franks at a Holdenville Indian community meeting.

Lowe has pled not guilty.

The other case, Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Frank Cantrell. Cantrell is accused of violence to a Lighthorse officer, interfering with a tribal officer, resisting arrest, assault and battery, and one subsequent count of escape.

Cantrell has pled not guilty.

Tribal court officials said a list of potential jurors is being developed from the election board rolls.

Okmulgee District Representative George Almerigi has been apppointed to defend both Lowe and Cantrell. Almerigi is a practicing Okmulgee attorney. He is a also a member of the tribal bar association.

He will be paid $60 an hour.

McNac confirmed to Supreme Court

The confirmation of Amos McNac to the Supreme Court is the fourth appointment made by Principal Chief Bill Fife.

McNac, 49, of Bristow, is active with Nuyaka Ceremonial. Fluent in Creek and familiar with common law, McNac met Fife's expressed desire to have a traditional person on the court.

McNac assumes the seat of Justice Willard Pittman who did not resign from the court as reported in the July edition of The Muscogee Nation News. Pittman said he was willing to serve another term, but was not asked to do so. McNac's term is for six years.

Other court members include Chief Justice Joe Johnson of Eufaula, Richard Lerblance of Hartshorne, Mike Flud of Morris, Jim Hayes of Checotah, and Ed Frye of Bristow...

Court changes greivance procedure

If a party has a suggested or alternative method for procedure, or has a complaint about court personnel, it should be addressed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court as a whole after the suggestion has been submitted to either, one of the justices or the district court judge. The matter should be heard at the next meeting of the Supreme Court to determine if the procedure would be useful, said Mark Dobbs, law clerk.

If a party has a complaint that needs to be addressed by the judicial branch, it again should be placed on a complaint form, which may be picked up at the judicial branch, and given to one the justices. The justice should then place the matter before the entire court to determine what action, if any, should be taken, Dobbs said.

If the problem deals with personnel matters, the court should set the matter for review with both the complaining party and the person the complaint is filed against being present. This should not be a public matter. After the meeting, the court should then decide what manner of action should be taken, Dobbs said.

Because the court is not subject to the open meeting law, it may establish any procedure it wishes to address on complaints presented to it, he said.

Communities plan grand openings and hold back-to-school parties

compiled by Stephanie Berryhill
MNN Associate Editor

Bristow holds food sale, bingo, presents badges

- Bristow Indian Community members will hold a food sale at their community center in conjunction with the City of Bristow's Western Heritage Day.

The community will be selling food from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 15.

Among food items to be sold are: Indian tacos; fried bread; hamburgers; hamburgers; and watermelon. The heritage day parade formation will be at the center's parking lot and will begin at 1 p.m. The community center is located at 121 W. Lincoln.

- The community elders' nutrition program will hold its grocery bingo after dinner on Aug. 14. Groceries were made available to the program through donations from local merchants. The games are free of charge to community elders.
- At 7 p.m., Aug. 17 the community will present recently purchased badges to the City of Bristow Fire Department. The community also purchased badges for the police department last year.
- The community's Job Training Partnership Act employees are: Ellis Haikey; and Giant Bear Simmers.
- Around 45 community members attended its recent picnic at Bristow Lake.
- The community held a back to school swimming party for its youth in early August.

Holdenville Indian Community has new officers

- Holdenville Indian Community has a new installation of community officers.

The officers are: Mitchell Musgrove, chair; Rechinta Youmans, vice- chair; Cora Beaver, secretary; Susan Perry, treasurer; and Clarence Johnson, parliamentarian.

- In late July the officers approved James Perry as smokeshop manager. Perry supervises two employees.
- In early August the community held a volunteer clean-up day in which 35 members cleaned in and outside the center.

Eufaula community opens day care center

- Eufaula Indian Community opened a state licensed day care center Aug 10 and is accepting applications for newborns through children eight years of age.

The completely remodeled daycare center, 702 Forest Ave., is formerly the location of the community's smokeshop. Center hours will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Raylene Stafford, center director, at 689-5660.

- Seventy community school children were taken to Frontier City for a back to school party early this month. Twenty parents also attended as chaperones.
- In June several members of the Eufaula Indian Community attended a language workshop held at Central State University. Community members that attended are: Morris and Mercedes Barnett; Jennie Barnett; Sue Parnoski; Harriett Tiger; Clem Lewis; Woody Sulphur Jr.; Emma Lewis; Jon Mark Tiger; and George Tiger. The Creek, Yuchi, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Kickapoo tribes were all represented at the workshop.
- Eufaula Indian Community elders that attended Red Earth are: Henryetta Marshall; Harriett Tiger; Ruby and Steven Jacobs; Ann Smith; Mamie Tom; Jessie Pipkins, Jean Dowling; and Sue Baumgarner. Driving for the elders were Mike Faulkenberry and Pat Franks.

MNN staff photo

Duck Creek Indian Community officers conduct business at the July community meeting. From left to right are Charlotte Tiger, Nancy Jo Harry, and Alice Brown.

Wetumka community slates Sucker Day activities

- Wetumka Indian Community is holding volleyball and fast pitch tournaments and a raffle in conjunction with the City of Wetumka's Sucker Days Aug. 28 through 30.

The community sucker day volleyball tournament will be held at 8 a.m., Aug. 29. The coed tournament is limited to 13 teams. The $35 entry fee is due Aug. 26. First and second place winners will both receive t-shirts and third place winners will receive a team trophy.

The men's fast pitch tournment will be held Aug. 28 through 30. The tournament, hosted by the Oklahoma Redskins, requires a 15-man roster. The $80 entry fee is due Aug. 20. For more information, call: Dink or Skeet Bemo, (918) 227-2930; Jerry Roughface, (918) 224-7728; or David Roughface, (405) 452-3646.

The community's finance committee is selling raffle tickets for $20 in gas and two cartons of cigarettes. Raffle tickets for gas are being sold at three for $1. Tickets for the cigarette raffle are being sold for $1 apiece. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the community center. The community center is located northwest of town on 608 N. Creek.

Duck Creek to hold grand opening for center

- Duck Creek Indian Community held its July regular meeting in its new center and will be holding its grand opening from 2 to 6 p.m., Aug. 29.

Dustin community members complete classes

- Fourteen Dustin Indian Community members recently completed its eight-week Mvskoke language class lessons.

The next session of advanced classed will begin Aug. 17. The classes are held at 7 p.m. each Monday night. The classes are held in the science room of Dustin Public Schools. The class instructor is John Riley of Weleetka.

Dewar community holds monthly grocery bingo

Dewar Indian Community's monthly grocery bingo will be held at 7 p.m., Sept. 1. The food sale will begin at 6 p.m.

Checotah team places first in tournament

- The Checotah Indian Community A's recently placed first in a class B tournament in Sand Springs.

The 12-year-old boys are coached by Joe July and Jim Brown.

- Job Training Partnership Act employee supervisor Drew Skaggs recently took 17 students on a ropes course in Stillwater. The purpose of the trip, funded by the community, was to help instill self esteem and confidence within the youth.
- The smokeshop was honored with a plaque from the Street Elite Car Club, Checotah, for its donation of promotional merchandise that was given away at the club's car show.

Yardeka holds singing, reschedules election

- Yardeka Indian Community is holding an outdoor gospel singing at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 15.

The community will also be holding a food sale which will begin at 7 p.m.

- Because of lack of attendance, last month's scheduled election to fill the seats of secretary and treasurer will be held at the Aug. 30 regular meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.
- The community now has salt meet and sofke corn available for sale, said Regina Randall Bailey, smokeshop and grocery store employee.

Muskogee youth swim party, prepares for election

- Muskogee Indian Community is holding a swimming party for its school age youth beginning at 10 a.m., Aug. 15.

Parents should have children at the center, located at 111 S. Virginia, between 10 and 11 a.m. The children will view a cultural tape and have refreshments before going swimming.

- Community Chair Grace Escoe will be appointing a three member nominating committee at the Sept. 7 regular meeting. The committee will be responsible for nominating community members for offices during its November election. The Sept. 7 meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- Sally Foster, community health representative manager, recently informed the community of services available through the CHR program. She was informative, answered many of our elders questions, and was very helpful, said Melissa Napier, community treasurer.
- Napier encouraged all Creek Indian community members visiting Muskogee to stop by the center to visit the new nutrition center facilities and eat dinner.
- Community members wish former treasurer Lena Primeaux well after recent brain surgery, said Helen Chupco, Muskogee District National Council representative.

please see COMMUNITIES,...page 5

Eufaula community readies for annual Labor Day powwow

Powwow evolves from local festival to major attraction

EUFAULA - Even before the Creek Nation Festival, Sandy McIntosh Scott foresaw a celebration that would educate non-Indians about the unique Mvskoke culture as well as bring Creek people together.

When he organized the first Eufaula Creek Indian Festival in 1969 he probably never envisioned it would evolve into the Eufaula Indian Community Labor Day Powwow and Sports Festival — an event that draws thousands of people to Eufaula each Labor Day weekend.

The community will host its 6th annual Labor Day powwow and sports festival Sept. 4 through 7. The weekend of powwow and stomp dancing, traditional Mvskoke food, Indian arts, and sports tournaments will take place at Eastside Ballpark located on Lake Eufaula Cove.

This year's powwow is dedicated to the memory of the late Scott, who coordinated the festival until his death in 1975.

Community chair Jon Tiger has been involved with the festival since 1969.

"We put a lot of time and effort in getting this (festival) together. It's kind of an ideal spot on the east side of the lake. People come here for the lake, to fellowship, and meet new friends," said Tiger.

The activities will kick-off on Friday with a stomp dance to be held at Eastside Ballpark. Mvskoke citizen Tony Mitchell is coordinating the dance.

The coed softball tournament also begins on Friday evening and runs through Sunday. The double elimination tournament will consist of a 12-person roster and is limited to 16 teams. Teams must enter by Aug. 31. The $75 entry fee must be paid Friday evening before the first game. The 16 teams will compete for the following: first, individual jackets and a team trophy; second, individual t-shirts and a team trophy; and third, team trophy.

Most valuable male and female players will both be awarded. Male and female MVP's will receive a trophy and t-shirt each. A sportsmanship trophy will also be awarded. Jerry Francis, tournament director, said an all-star team of five men and five women will be selected and awarded with medallions.

A coed volleyball tournament will begin Saturday's activities. The tournament is limited to 16 teams and the $45 entry fee is due Aug. 26. First place winners will receive jackets, sports bags will be awarded to second place winners, third place winners will receive t-shirts, and a team trophy will be given to fourth place winners.

Susie Deere, community vice-chair, is the tournament coordinator.

The powwow grand entry begins Saturday night. Included in Saturday night's dance will be a tiny tots exhibition. Various raffles and 50-50 pot raffles will be held at the powwow nightly through Monday.

All senior division contestants must register between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday. Senior contestants must participate in the Sept. 5 and 6 grand entry to qualify for contest. The Senior men's contest will consist of straight, traditional- grass, and fancy dance categories. Buckskin, cloth, and fancy shawl-jingle dress dance categories fall within the women's senior division.

Cash prizes for men and women's senior division categories are: first, $500; second, $300; third, $200; and fourth, $100. The boys' junior division will consist of straight-traditional and fancy dance catagories. Cloth- buckskin and fancy shawl-jingle dress are the girls' junior division categories. Cash prizes for boys and girls' junior division categories are: first, $100; second, $75; third, $50; and

please see EUFAULA,... page 11

Eufaula Indian Community Labor Day Powwow and Sports Festival

Sept. 4
6 p.m. - Supper for stomp dance participants
7 p.m. - Coed softball tournament
8 p.m. - Stomp dance
Sept. 5
9 a.m. - Coed softball tournament
9 a.m. - Coed volleyball tournament
9 a.m. - Horshoe pit opens
2 p.m. - Gourd dancing
6 p.m. - Supper for head staff and families
8 p.m. - Powwow grand entry - junior division finals
Sept. 6
9 a.m. - Coed softball tournament
9 a.m. - Coed volleyball tournament
2 p.m. - Gourd dancing
5 p.m. - Supper
4 p.m. - Archery tournament
8 p.m. - Powwow grand entry - womens' division finals
Sept. 7
1 p.m. - Domino tournament
2 p.m. - Gourd dancing
5 p.m. - Supper
8 p.m. - Powwow grand entry - mens' divisions finals

Communities hold end-of-summer activities

continued from page 4

Okemah nutrition center opening nears

• Okemah Indian Community's monthly grocery bingo will be held at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 4. The $5 packet includes 12 games.

All community members are encouraged to bring one grocery item. The bingo is held on the first Friday of each month.

• Fabric painting classes are offered at 7:30 p.m., every Tuesday. The class members are nearing completion of a quilt that will be raffled off during the grand opening of its elder's nutrition center. Community member Rebecca Stroud is the class instructor.

• The nutrition center grand opening is set for Sept. 12, although no agenda has been set for the all-day affair, said Nancy Duncan, community program developer. The first official feeding day will be Sept. 14.

• By the end of August all seven community employees will be certified for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

• The community's five security guards have recently been certified by the Lighthorse administration.

• Stroud, who had her leg amputated earlier this year, is undergoing outpatient rehabilitation at George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute. The rehabilitation will enable the active community member and Thlopthlocco Methodist Church member to wear a prothesis.

Tulsa Indian Community to hold special meeting

• Tulsa Creek Indian Community is holding a special meeting Aug. 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Turner Recreation Center, 3503 E. 5th Place. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the smokeshhop and facilities use agreement.

Hanna community all-sports weekend results

• Hanna Indian Community announced the winners of its recent all-sports weekend.

Men's softball tournament winners were: first, Okmulgee Indian Community Smokeshop; second, Mike Berryhill of Mounds; and third, Proctors of Tulsa. The tournament's most valuable player was Dean Williams of OIC Smokeshop.

Women's softball tournament winners were: first, Sissie Lewis of Hanna; second, Susie Deere of Eufaula; and third, J.R.'s Tavern of Okmulgee.

Volleyball tournament winners were: first, No Limit of Okmulgee; and second, Jazz of Hanna. The tournament's most valuable players were Vince and Wanda Williams of Ryal.

Glenpool community plans outdoor stompdance

• Glenpool Creek Indian Community members are planning an outdoor stompdance to be held Sept. 18.

• Two groups of Tulsa educators with Tulsa Tours visited the community center in July and August. Community members fed them lunch and entertained them with story telling. Cooking for the groups were Virginia Nichwander, community vice-chair, and Melba Williams.

• Community members honored Nichwander recently with a surprise birthday party.

Eufaula community youth win Creek festival olympics — Okfuskee, Morris also place

OKMULGEE — Although the 18th Annual Creek Nation Festival Youth Olympics were cut short by weather conditions, the Eufaula Indian Community team was determined the winner.

Eufaula captured the first place victory with 66 points. Following Eufaula was the Okfuskee Indian Community team with 60 points. Morris youth placed third with 56 points. Winners were determined by points tallied just prior to the cancellation.

Winning the pentathlon in the six to 7-year-old boys and girls divisions was: Lewis Conway, Bristow; and Terra Beaver, Morris. The eight to 9-year-old boys and girls division winners were: Clinton Hicks, Sapulpa; and Tamara Hill, Bristow. Winning in the 10 to 11-year-old boys and girls divisions were: James Walker, Eufaula; and Tia Brown, Okfuskee. Winners in the 12 to 13-year-old boys and girls divisions were: Austin Jones, Morris; and Rikki Simpson, Okfuskee. The 14 to 15-year-old winners were: Tyson Bracy, Morris; and Gina Davis, Seminole.

The coaches were: Jerry Francis, Eufaula; Faron and Melissa Culley, Okfuskee; and Don Washington, Morris.

Mvskoke youth talented in writing, dance, art and sport

Jimboy attends poetry festival

OKLAHOMA CITY — Creek student RonDella Jimboy attended the Returning the Gift Project, a festival of Native American Poetry and book writers, recently held at Oklahoma City University.

Being a young Native American writer, Indian writers encouraged Jimboy, and other native youth, to begin writing their own books and poetry with inspiration from tribal ancestors.

Jimboy

Jimboy also attended the workshop last year.

Those offering encouragement to Jimboy were her Holdenville Jr. High School mathematics teacher, Mrs. Wright and English instructor, Mrs. Anderson.

Her parents would like to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Holdenville Indian Community for supporting her educational endeavors. They expressed gratitude to the project festival staff for Jimboy's all-expense-paid scholarship to the festival.

Jimboy is the daughter of David and Jensie Hicks. She is the granddaughter of Evelyn and Ronald J. McGirt.

"We hope she will continue to be able to participate in educational workshops," Hicks said.

Battiest a member of winning team

HOLDENVILLE — Vanessa Joy Battiest an 8-year-old Creek-Choctaw student and avid softball player, helped her team, the "Yellow Jackets," win first place honors in two tournaments.

Battiest

The third-grader is the youngest member on her age 10 and under girls softball team and has been playing ball since she was in kindergarten. During the season, she played left field and second base. The "Yellow Jackets" placed first in the Seminole Invitational Tournament; they also placed first in the Holdenville area league. They were runners-up in the Coco-Cola Classic Tournament for 10 and under, held in Ada. Her hobbies include: softball; volleyball; reading; playing Nintendo; and watching women's fastpitch softball.

She is the daughter of Chris and Yvetta Powell of Holdenville. Her grandparents are Calvin Battiest of Ada and the late Yvonne Martin of Wetumka.

Creek medical student given dinner

HOLDENVILLE — Linda and Ben Moore recently held a back-to-school dinner for University of Oklahoma pre-med student David Cook.

The dinner was held at the home of Cook's parents, Pat and Ernest Cook. Attending was his mother, Helen Cook, and his great-great aunt Nancy Beaver.

The Muscogee Nation News accepts black and white or color photographs, that are in focus and identified. Submitted photographs will be returned upon request.

Creek grappler places ninth and tenth at national wrestling tournament

COLUMBIA, Mo.— Creek wrestler Josh Newberry recently placed ninth in Greco Roman wrestling, in the 83 and one-half pound bracket, at the national championship.

Newberry also placed tenth in freestyle wrestling and was one of few nationwide wrestlers that qualified for both categories. Newberry was one of three members of the Oklahoma wrestling team that qualified for the national championship. With the exception of some states, most throughout the U.S were represented by three wrestlers each, said Larry Newberry, his father.

Newberry, who prefers freestyle wrestling, competed against around 150 boys in his weight bracket for his ninth and tenth place rankings in each category. He is a ninth-grade student at North Intermediate High School, Broken Arrow, and the son of Larry and Kay Newberry. He has one brother, Deryk, and two sisters, Tricia and Lauren. He is the grandson of the late Buford "Boots" and Eula Newberry. His maternal grandparents are the late George and Patricia Henson. Newberry is a descendant of the Perryman family.

Josh Newberry on top

Texas Creek dances at olympics

BORGER, Texas — Northern traditional dancer and Creek tribal citizen Micah McGehee was one of 20 American youths who recently danced in the olympic games' opening ceremonies in Barcelona, Spain.

The theme for the opening ceremonies was native dances. McGehee, also Cherokee and adopted Commanche, wore his northern traditional regalia, representing the dances of American Indians.

McGehee

He has been dancing around eight years. McGehee currently serves as a junior advisor with the Adobe Walls Indian Dancers and is head man dancer of the Texas Intertribal Indian Organization.

McGehee belongs to Tuskegee Tribal Town and the Bear Clan.

He is the son of Dwain and Marsha Barnett McGehee. He is the grandson of the late Beryl and Lou Townsend Barnett. He is the great grandson of the late Janetta McIntosh Townsend and the great-great grandson of the late John McIntosh. He is the nephew of Yahola and Betty Townsend, Lahoma Townsend Campbell, Wynema Townsend Priddy, and Helena Townsend Patman.

He is a cousin of the late, former Principal Chief W. C. "Dode" McIntosh.

Roberts family slates September reunion at Nuyaka Baptist Church

OKEMAH — The third Roberts family reunion will be held on Sept. 5 at Nuyaka Baptist Church.

Activities will begin at 10 a.m. Activities will be held for family members of all ages. Games will be held for children, volleyball for adults, and bingo for elders.

Everyone should bring a covered dish and lawn chair.

For more information, contact Pat Pigeon at (918) 623-0377, Carney Roberts at (918) 623-2787, or Louise McNac at (918) 623-0191.

Weleetkan wins poster contest

OKMULGEE — A 10-year-old Weleetka student is the winner of the Amerind Risk Management Corporation's fire safety poster contest at the local level.

First place winner Bonita Hobia, 10, is the daughter of Mary and Melford Hobia of Weleetka. She will receive a $100 dollar gift certificate from Wal-Mart. The second place winner was Ada Baldridge, 8. She is the daughter of Bonita Tiger of Eufaula. She will receive a $75 dollar gift certificate from Wal-Mart.

Housing authority board chair Ken Childers presents Hobia with award.

The third place winner was Jonathan Dority, 13. He is the son of Bobby and Marie Twoney of Holdenville. He will receive a $50 dollar gift from Wal-Mart.

The winning poster was submitted to the state Amerind contest. The winner of the state contest will advance to the corporation's national competition fire safety contest for competition.

The first place winner will receive a savings bond and, an all expense paid trip to Orlando, Fla. for the corporation's annual fire safety convention in November. The corporation's local judges for the contest were the Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and executive director.

"We wish to thank all the contestants and parents for their participation in the poster contest. All of the posters were very good and it was a hard decision, for our board to make," said Bert Robinson, CNHA personnel director.

Submit society news to The Muscogee Nation News, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation births and birthdays

Landon Keith Humble

Humble

OKEMAH — Landon Keith Humble was born July 18 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Carol and Keith Humble. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 and one-fourth inches long. He is Creek-Seminole.

He is the maternal grandson of Irene Sands of Castle and Frank Bear of Okmulgee. Paternal grandparents are Jim and Ethel Humble of Okemah.

Ross Tye Stacy

Stacy

CASTLE — Ross Tye Stacy, Cherokee-Creek, will celebrate his first birthday, Aug. 11.

Stacy is the son of Barbara Sands of Castle and Ross Stacy of Okemah. Maternal grandparents are Earl and Wisey Sands of Castle. Paternal grandparents are Eugene and the late Nancy Stacy of Okemah.

Tess Leann Harjo

HENRYETTA — Tess Leann Harjo celebrated her first birthday at McDonald's, July 3, 1992. She is the daughter of Ryan and Shelley Harjo of Henryetta. Her maternal grandparents are the late Walter and Sally Taylor of Henryetta. Her paternal grandparents are Frank Harjo of Henryetta and Thelma Harjo of Virginia.

Garrett Zachary Harjo

OKMULGEE — Garrett Zachary Harjo was born June 29, 1992 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Ryan and Shelley Harjo of Henryetta. He weighed 9 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.

Maternal grandparents are the late Walter and Sally Taylor of Henryetta. Paternal grandparents are Frank Harjo of Henryetta and Thelma Harjo of Virginia.

Seminole man seeks Indians for September olympics

SEMINOLE — Tribal citizen Bill Barnett is looking for Indians to compete in the 1992 Senior Olympics, to be held Sept. 23 through 27 at various sites in Tulsa.

Barnett, pastor of Indian Nations Baptist Church, Seminole, would like to field an all-Indian team to compete in as many events as possible. The only requirements for competion are good health and being 55-years-old or older.

Barnett has been competing for the past three years. Last year his volleyball team finished fourth and his three-on-three basketball team placed third.

"I'd like to put together a team of Indians for these games," Barnett said. "A few Indians particpated last year, but not as a team."

Barnett can be reached at P.O. Box 1361, Seminole, OK 74868.

Bristow couple observe eleventh anniversary

BRISTOW — Soloman and Kim Hill celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary recently.

Soloman, Kim Hill and daughters

The couple was wed July 6, 1981 at Sapulpa. They are the parents of five girls: Beverly, 10; Sabrina, nine; Tamara, eight; Melinda, seven; and Heidi, three.

Hill is the grandson of Sarah Coker Hicks, of the Mason area. His mother is JoAnn Hill of Bristow. He is the son of the late George Hill of Bristow.

Okmulgee Indian Community observes birthdays

OKMULGEE — Birthdays were celebrated with a dinner and cake at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center, July 11th.

Those who had birthdays were: Hilda and Darryl Lowe, Calif.; Julie Dunn, Tulsa; Rose Berryhill, Okmulgee; Shelia Rabbit, Okmulgee; Pat and Misty Bunner, Morris; Margie Kelly, Glenpool; Mitchell Thornburgh, Fort Gibson; and Frank Knight, Fort Gibson.

Those attending were: Betty Gourd, Tulsa; Darryl Lowe and family, Calif.; Gary Dunn and family, Tulsa; Edna Messer, Okmulgee; Patsy McDowell and family, Okmulgee; Debbie Thornburgh, Fort Gibson; Diane Kutz and family, Fort Gibson; Amos Rabbit and family, Okmulgee; Rev. Robert Washington and family, Okmulgee; Leonard Berryhill and family, Okmulgee; Penny and Anthony Gibson, Okmulgee; Josephine and Dilbert Morton, Tulsa; Geneva McCelenan and family, Okmulgee; Gerald Rabbit and family, Okmulgee; Lorene Rabbit, Morris; Anesia and Steven Rabbit, Okmulgee; Lloyd and Lizzie Roper, Okmulgee; Nannie Lowe and family, Dewar; Ben Lowe, Sapulpa; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coker, Tulsa; Raymond Harjo and family, Tulsa; George and Jerry Deer and family, Wewoka; Glen Kelly and family Glenpool; Bobby King, Jackie Buckley and family, Henryetta; Mike Bunner, Oklahoma City; Ella Harjo, Oklaoma City; and Angie, Ryan, and Jarrod Bunner, Okmulgee.

Tiger leads Creek-Yuchi delegation to Georgia

ALBANY, Ga. — In May a group of 42 Creeks and Yuchis representing Fish Pond, Sand Creek, and Polecat ceremonial grounds attended the Chehaw National Indian Festival.

Tiger

Prior to the festival's pow wow grand entry, Polecat Ceremonial Ground Chief Jim Brown led a prayer in the Yuchi language. A variety of dances were performed by the group during the three day festival.

Tema Tiger, Fish Pond, demonstrated the art of making stickball sticks and gave a speech, in the Mvskoke language, over the group's ancestors who lived in the area prior to removal. The speech was interpreted by Muscogee (Creek) National Council Okmulgee District Representative Thomas Berrryhill. Tiger also accepted an afghan presented for Principal Chief Bill Fife.

Five generations of Ada Scott

A few descendants of the late Ada Scott gathered for this picture. Pictured are, back row from left to right, Elizabeth Davis, great grandmother, Janie Bates held by her mother Kimberly Bates. Front row, from left to right, Scott, great-great grandmother, and Jamie Bates held by her grandfather Luther Factor.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

ROLEY BERRYHILL

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Roley Berryhill, 85, of Okemah were held May 13 at the Williamson Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Thomas Long officiating. Berryhill died May 10 at Okemah.

He was born March 19, 1907 to Houston and Nettie Tiger Berryhill in the Okfuskee area, Indian Territory.

Berryhill attended Euchee Mission Boarding School. He married Sarah Sawyer at Holdenville in 1928. They made their home in Hughes and Okfuskee counties before he became employed in oil field work in Great Bend, Kan.

He relocated in the Cromwell area after his retirement in 1972. He spent many years farming and was a member of Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church.

Survivors include: four sons, Robert of Lawrence, Kan., Chubby of Holdenville, Sonny of Wetumka, and Joe Lee of Oklahoma City; two daughters, Peggy Sue Johnson of McCloud and Linda Berryhill of Wewoka; thirteen grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; several nieces; nephews; other relatives; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Sarah; one daughter, Nettie Ruth; two brothers; and three sisters.

His grandsons served as pallbearers. Interment was in the Thlopthlocco Cemetery.

JIMMIE JOHNSON

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Jimmie Johnson, 64, were held June 19 at Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church with Rev. Jacob Ray McGilbray officiating. Wake service was held at Webb Schumacher Funeral Chapel June 18. Johnson died June 16 in Okemah.

He was born April 3, 1928 in Okemah and had been a resident of Okemah all his life. He attended Sequoyah Indian Boarding School in Tahlequah. He was a member and elder of Thlopthlocco Methodist Church.

In 1950, he married Minnie Sullivan. They had six children and ten grandchildren. His enlistment in the army in 1946 took him to Eurpoe where he served as a military policeman. He was also a veteran of the Korean War and he recieved the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars. He was also active in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Survivors include: his wife, Minnie, of the home; four sons, Luther and Jonny Johnson, both of Okemah, Daniel and Winslow Johnson, both of Glenpool; two daughters, Lillie Ann Hinkle of Castle and Connie Lunsford of Okmulgee; three sisters, Leona Zink of Okemah, Lena Hope and Betty Fleming, both of Del City; and ten grandchildren.

Interment was in the Thlopthlocco Cemetery.

MARY BEVENUE

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Mary Bevenue were held July 14 at Picket Chapel United Methodist Church with Rev. Thomas Long officiating. Bevenue was a lifelong resident of the Sapulpa area. She was the daughter of Lewis and Bebe Crow Cumsey. She was married to Leonard Bevenue, who preceded her in death in 1985.

The love and tenderness she showed to her family will be missed by each one. She made many friendships and those people who knew her as such, will feel the loss of her smile and companionship.

On July 11, through the grace of the Lord she loved, she was able to come from the comatose state she was in to tell each of her children of her love for them.

ADA YAHOLA SCOTT

OKEMAH — Ada Yahola Scott, 93, of Okemah, died July 30 at Okemah. She was born Nov. 28, 1898 in the Okfuskee area, Indian Territory.

Scott had been a resident of Okemah all her life. She was a member of Montesoma Baptist Church. She was the wife of Deacon James Scott and head women's leader of Montesoma. Scott served as women's missionary union treasurer, Sunday school teacher, and served on various other committees. She also taught non-readers scriptures. She was active in association work even before the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association assembly ground became permanent. She served as the treasurer of the WMU managing board, on the Betty Drew committee, and on the WMU finance committee.

Scott

Scott was a gold star mother having lost her son, Chester Biggs, in World War II. She was also a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 1189.

Preceding her in death were: her two sons, Chester and James Larney; her sister, Martha Strayhorn; one granddaughter, Diane Stensgard; and her brother, Abraham Yahola. She was the daughter of the late William Green Yahola and the late Winey Hicks.

Scott is survived by: her daughter, Elizabeth Davis of Okmulgee; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Steve Yahola, Leonard Yahola, James King, John Sherman King, Charles Taylor, and Dennis Canard.

Honorary pallbearers were: Fred Jones, Jimmie Jones, Samuel Yahola, James Stensgard, Mike Sternback and David King.

EDWARD SEBER

MUSKOGEE — Funeral Services for Edward Seber were held July 27, 1992 in the Wacoche Dining Hall at Bacone College.

Seber died July 27, in Tahlequah, after a brief illness. He was born July 2, 1924, to James Albert and Ada Littlehead Seber.

Seber served in the United States Army Air Force from 1946 to 1949, receiving an honorable discharge. Seber married Mary Spinks on July 31, 1947. He attended Washington State University, Bacone College, Northeastern State University, and Oklahoma State University Technical School. Seber enjoyed sports. He was all-star in basketball and excelled in baseball, softball, and boxing. Seber started the first women's fast pitch league in Muskogee and had always supported softball. He was formerly employed as an electrician at Creek Nation. He was a member of Bacone College Baptist Church, where he was the choir director, deacon, and adult Sunday school teacher.

He is survived by: his wife, Mary Ataboa Spinks of the home; one son, John Edward Seber of Joplin, Mo.; three daughters, Alice Beach and Lori Mullican both of Muskogee, and Judy Bailey of Wann; one brother, Nelson Seber of Norman; five sisters Lester MacIntosh and Edna Brown both of Sapulpa, Ester Littlebear of Norman, Leona Alsup of Jenks, and Nina Gibson of Bixby; and eleven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by: his daughter, Sandra J. Sisco; and grandchildren, Dennis R. Sisco Jr. and Sandy Carol Beach.

LEONA CHISHOLM

MUSKOGEE — Funeral services for Leona Chisholm, 78, of Muskogee, were held July 7 at the Creenhill Cemetery with Rev. Tom Shelton officiating. She died at her home July 4, 1992.

She was born near Coweta on Dec. 11, 1913. She attended Coweta schools. She graduated from Draughon's Business College, prior to embarking on a career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She spent more than 36 years with the BIA, retiring in 1971.

Chisholm attended Fife Memorial United Methodist Church. She was a past member of the Dakotah Club.

Survivors include: one sister, Lucy Gay of Okmulgee; several nieces; and nephews.

GEORGE MCNAC

BRISTOW — A traditional funeral service was held for George McNac, 53, at the McNac family residence near Bristow June 23 with various traditional speakers officiating. Wake service was June 22 at the family residence. McNac died June 20 in Bristow.

He was born February 22, 1939 in Bristow and was a line service worker. He was also the assistant chief at the Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground. He was preceded in death by his father Johnny McNac.

Survivors include: his wife, Wanda McNac of the home; his mother, Weetsie Johnson McNac; sons Wendell McNac of Sapulpa, and Eric McNac of Bristow; two daughters, Georgia Ann McNac and Carolyn McNac, both of Bristow; and one brother, Amos McNac, also of Bristow.

Interment was in the Johnson-McNac Cemetery.

TILDA HANEY

SHAWNEE — Funeral services for Tilda Haney, 69, of Shawnee were held July 23 at Cedar Creek Baptist Church. Rev. George Harjochee officiated the service.

Haney was born Dec. 29, 1923. She was married to Samuel Haney, who preceded her in death. Others preceding her in death was a sister, Nina Fixico and a brother, Herman Bender.

Survivors include: daughters, Alice Porter of the home and Kissie Mouse of Yukon; two sons, Thomas Fixico of the home and James Haney of Oklahoma City; two stepdaughters, Ruth Haney of Tulsa and Madeline Amos of Oklahoma City; four grandsons, Howard Haney, Alan Mouse, Daniel Mouse, and Robert Fixico; granddaughters Charlotte Amos and Stephanie Yazzie of Oklahoma City; one great-grandchild; and a brother Sam Bender of Wolf.

Pallbearers were: Howard Haney; Allen Mouse; George Mouse; Thomas Fixico; James Haney; and Larry Godwin.

Creek Nation hosts workshops for marketing Indian artists

From left to right Creek artists Jon Tiger, Robert Satterfield, and Mike Bear are attentive at the first workshop for marketing Indian artists. In the background is Dr. Constance Pogue.

MNN staff photo

OKMULGEE — Developing a business strategy for Indian artists is the purpose of a three-part workshop developed by the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center and hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"We're trying to organize Indian artists to help them develop their arts and crafts as a business," said Dr. Connie Pogue, regional director of the OSBDC in Tahlequah.

The first portion of the workshop was held at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee. There, artists assessed their current needs of the business and began developing marketing strategies to offer their products in a wider market, including international markets.

The second part of the workshop to be held Oct. 13 in Okmulgee, will have the participating artists develop strategic plans to "tap those markets" that have been entered.

Pogue said the workshop series will conclude with a January field trip to the Dallas Market Center. There, the Dallas market staff will be available to answer questions and offer inside tips to the artists.

Pogue will also be a workshop presenter. Other presentors include: W. Colquit Tanner, president of Dynamic Development Associates in Florida, and Dr. Gordon Bronitsky of Bronitsky and Associates in Colorado.

Tanner was formerly the director of the Best of Southwest Show with the Dallas Marker Center and Bronitsky is a consultant for marketing Indian products in Europe.

Pogue said there are several opportunities to market Indian arts and crafts, but many artists do not know how to market their products.

"There is a tremendous market for Indian arts and crafts not only in the U.S., but in Europe," Pogue said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal affairs director Woody Anderson said the tribe's role was that of a facilitator.

"Basically, the tribe's role in the workshop series is to facilitate the experts with the artists.

"The tribe sponsored some artists to promote our own arts and crafts people," Anderson said. "They in turn can help us train others."

Tulsa station to carry National Native News

TULSA — The National Native News is being broadcast weeknights on KWGS, a public radio station of the University of Tulsa.

National Native News is produced by Gary Fife, Creek, and is carried by American Public Radio to more than 170 radio stations.

Fife has won Golden Reel Awards in 1990 and 1991 for his production of news and public affairs.

He has been with the National Native News since its inception in 1987. It remains the only source of Indian news broadcast daily on a national basis.

D'anne Hamilton, Inupiat, is the features producer and reporter. She won the Native American Journalists Association award for reporting in 1991.

"We are pleased to be carrying the program which features Tulsa native Gary Fife," said Bill Noles, KWGS program director. "We look forward to being a part of Gary's efforts to broaden the coverage of Native American issues."

National Native News is broadcast weeknights on KWGS, fm 89.5 at 9:50.

Tulsa station to carry representative's show

TULSA — Tulsa radio station KQLL am 1430 will broadcast George Tiger's Saturday morning football program beginning in September. Tiger, an Okmulgee District National Council representative, will interview Tulsa metropolitan area high school football coaches from 9 to 11 a.m.

Tiger also hosts Inside Native America, a monthly television program broadcast the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. on KOTV, Channel 6 . He has four children and resides in Morris.

Housing authority submits comprehensive grant rehabilitation application to HUD

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Housing Authority has submitted its comprehensive grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said the executive director, in a prepared statement.

Joe Jackson, executive director, said the grant could be worth more than $4.2 million to the housing authority.

HUD has acknowledged receipt of the grant application and has 75 days for a review period.

HUD will be in contact with the housing authority for clarification, data interpretation, corrections of inelgible work items, and other items that could result in disapproval.

The review criteria is based on:

— comprehensive plan completion;

— identified needs consistency with facts and data;

— an appropriate action plan;

— adequate demonstration of long-term viability at reasonable cost; and

— consistency with local government or Indian housing authority board statement of purpose.

The grant identifies all work required to bring units up to modernization and energy conservation standards, addresses all management deficiencies, and establishes modernization startegies and funding priorities.

Homebuyers are reminded that to be eligible for participation in the modernization program, they must be in compliance with their financial obligations under the homebuyers agreement, Jackson said.

Also, participants:

— cannot be delinquent on monthly house payments;

— must recertify their annual income and family composition; and

— must occupy their house as assigned in the homebuyers agreement.

These prerequisites must be met before the homebuyer will be allowed to participate in the program.

Any units which have been paid off, even those that have not been conveyed, by the time the grant application is submitted, will not be eligible for modernization work.

However, work on any homeownership units which have not been paid off by the time the application is submitted, and is included in the application, is eligible even if the units are paid for before the work is completed.

HUD has accepted the housing authority's grant application for completeness.

The housing authority expects notification of its approval or disapproval after Sept. 1, Jackson said.

Tribal briefs

Little to be nominated director of community services

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Bill Fife has nominated Harley Little as the director of community services.

Little, of Muskogee, is a Muskogee District representative. He is a former agency supertintendent with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He has been a National Council representative for six years. His nomination is expected to be considered at the August session of the Council. If approved, Little will relinquish his seat on the Council.

The community services division includes the tribe's social services programs. Tribal policy analyst Robert Trepp has been acting community services director.

Okmulgee woman to manage elderly nutrition program

OKMULGEE — Pearl Thomas of Okmulgee, has been appointed manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation elderly nutrition program.

Thomas, Creek, received her bachelor's of science degree in vocational home econmics from Northeastern State Universtiy at Tahlequah. She and her husband, Pod, have two children, Randy and Patricia. Thomas has two grandchildren, Andrew and Jennifer. She is the daughter of Reuben and Peggy Chalakee of Okmulgee.

The tribe operates nutrition centers at Dewar, Eufaula, Koweta, Muskogee, Okmulgee, and Wetumka.

Dewar Creek to manage Johnson O'Malley program

OKMULGEE — Wiley Ryal of Dewar, has been appointed manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson O'Malley Indian education program.

The tribe has contracted the J-O-M program and will begin operating Oct. 1. Ryal will be responsible for planning and organizing J-O-M contracts, supervising J-O-M staff, developing and maintaining rapport with parent committees and school administrators, and developing contract policies and procedures. He will also coordinate J-O-M activities, workshops, and conferences with local schools as well as develop contracts, annual reports, and monitor contract progress.

Ryal is a former educator in the Henryetta and Dewar school systems. Ryal coached for 28 years. He won 440 games as a basketball coach and 450 games as a baseball coach. Ryal coached the Oklahoma All-stars against California in 1982. He has been nominated for the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame. Ryal and his wife, Barbara, have two children, Mark of Oklahoma City and Karen Milam of Dewar.

Tribal Council appoints Beggs woman to research position

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hired Kathryn Bell of Beggs, as the legislative research specialist.

Bell, Cheyenne, will research legislative items for the 31-member Council and will also draft legislation.

Bell has two children, Chris and Jesse. She is the former managing editor of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

Tribal veteran to receive Oklahoma Cross of Valor

OKMULGEE — Creek citizen Willie Ellis and Kermit Lay will be decorated with the Oklahoma Cross of Valor during a presentation ceremony to be held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1189, Okmulgee.

World War II veterans Ellis of Okmulgee, and Lay of Altus, will be decorated as well as honored for their service with the 724th Aviation Ordnance Company at 2 p.m., Sept. 4. They were recently awarded the Oklahoma Cross of Valor medal by Governor David Walters.

As members of the 724th, Ellis and Lay participated in the defense of Corregidor and Bataan and suffered as Japanese prisoners of war for three and one-half years or more.

Ellis, 76, has been reported dead twice in his military career. In 1942, his family received a telegram that Ellis was missing in action and presumed dead. Ellis's father died in 1944 not knowing his son was alive.

In the 1950s, he was in a military plane crash that killed over 100 soldiers. Again, his family received a telegram notifying them of his death.

Ellis retired from the military in 1961. He then worked for the Saudi Arabian government.

Ellis reports that he is healthy and active in the VFW, Post 1189. His brother, A.D. Ellis, is an Okmulgee District representative to the National Council.

A reunion of the surviving 724th members, as well as widows of members, will be held at the same time.

Among the featured speakers are: Lynda Waldroop, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; Bill Fife, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief; Carlisle Mabrey III, City of Okmulgee mayor; and Clarence Barton, Oklahoma Department of the VFW.

Creeks to lead Tulsa conference in October

TULSA — A conference titled "The Next 500 Years" is scheduled for Oct. 11 through 14 at the Westin Hotel in Tulsa. Sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, Osage Nation, and Sac and Fox Nation, the conference has been endorsed by the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and the U.S. Indian Health Service.

The conference has purposely been scheduled opposite several local events recognizing the 500-year anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in the Americas.

The first day of the conference will include a speaker's forum, with legislative and congressional candidates being invited to speak and answer the questions of a panel. There are also cultural discussions scheduled that day.

The second day of the conference will concentrate on tribal sovereignty. Morning sessions will discuss the new self-governance compacts authorized by the U.S. Congress. Afternoon sessions will concentrate on the legal infrastructure required for tribes to protect their sovereignty.

The third day of the conference is scheduled to include health issues. Maternal and child health will be discussed in the morning. Elder issues will be discussed in the afternoon, followed by a discussion of communicable diseases, with a panel to discuss acquired immune deficiency syndrome and tuberculosis. A panel of elders will discuss their perspectives on health matters.

On the final day of the conference education will be discussed in a morning session concentrtrating on the idea of educating ourselves and our neighbors. A follow-up report on the White House Conference on Indian Education will also be reviewed. A general session is scheduled to end the conference that afternoon.

During the conference, Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief Bill Fife will provide opening remarks. The planning committee is organizing a Monday night powwow, a presentation of a short comedy skit about Christopher Columbus, and is also inviting several keynote speakers.

Tribal members and community leaders are asked to attend. Conference fees are $150 and conference rates are available at the Westin Hotel. People attending the conference are eligible to earn continuing education units through the University of Oklahoma.

Education briefs

Indian graduate center seeks director

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The American Indian Graduate Center is seeking applications for an executive director. A master's degree is preferred. Submit resume, introductory letter, salary history, and three current references to: American Indian Graduate Center, 4520 Montgomery Blvd., N.E. Suite 1-B, Albuquerque, NM 87109. Deadline for receipt of application is August 31, 1992.

OU to offer public health masters at Enid

ENID — Pending approval by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, two graduate level courses in public health from the University of Oklahoma will be offered through the Enid Higher Education Program. The three hour classes, U.S health care systems 5453 and health policy and politics 5303, cost $64.25 per credit hour, in addition to a $15 application fee. Completed applications, including official transcripts and three letters of recommendation, must be submitted by Aug. 14. Classes start Aug. 26. For application packets, information or assistance, call (405) 237-0334 or (405) 234-6075.

Indian post-graduate applications accepted

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Education will be accepting applications for fellowships enabling Indian students to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees beginning Nov. 25. Approximately $700,000 will be available for new awards, said John T. MacDonald, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education.

For applications, contact: Dr. John Derby, Indian fellowship program, Office of Indian Education, U.S. Department of Education, Room 2177, FOB 6, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, DC, 20202-6335. Phone: (202) 401-1902.

Religion briefs

Deep Fork Hillabee presents gospel group

Unity
Side By Si

Unity

CHECOTAH — Deep Fork Hillabee Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing beginning at 7 p.m., Sept. 12.

The featured group will be Unity. Master of ceremonies is Spook Wesley. All singers are invited. Supper will be served prior to the singing.

The church is located two miles south from Checotah on old 69 highway. Drive one mile west, one mile south, and one-half mile west.

Middle Creek No. 2 hosts gospel singing

HOLDENVILLE — Middle Creek Baptist Church No. 2 is holding a gospel singing Aug. 15. The church is located two miles west of Holdenville on U.S. Highway 270.

Morning Star annual campmeeting set

MOUNDS — Morning Star Ministries annual campmeeting dates are Sept. 2 through 6. The location will be four and one-half miles east of U.S. Highway 75 on 221st St. The speakers include: John Harker, Tulsa; Jay Swallow, Geary; Larry Gilbert, Canada; and Chuck Spott, Washington.

Randall Mission observes anniversary

WILSON — Randall Baptist Mission is observing its second anniversary with old-fashioned preaching and singing services Aug. 16. The church is located 8.5 miles northwest of Henryetta off Wilson Road.

Chalakee reunion set for Springtown

BROKEN ARROW — Descendants and friends of the late Rev. John and Fannie Berryhill Chalakee are invited to attend the Chalakee reunion Sept. 5 and 6 at Springtown Methodist Church near Broken Arrow. There will be a Sunday service, a pot-luck dinner, and games for all ages. A talent show will also be held at night.

ATTENTION

NOTICE

The Muscogee Creek Nation will be conducting a random survey of Creek and Yuchi citizens, asking tribal members to rate the quality of services provided by the tribal government and to identify socio-economic needs.

If you receive a questionnaire, please respond as soon as possible.

Your participation will help the tribal government better serve you.

Bill S. Fife, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Eufaula to draw thousands during holiday weekend

continued from page 5

fourth, $25.

The powwow headstaff is: powwow princess Ursula Walker, Sac and Fox-Kickapoo, McLoud; head singer Vernon Atkins, Otoe, Tulsa; head male dancer Michael Whitecloud, Arapahoe-Otoe-Choctaw, El Reno; head lady dancer Alicia Grant, Sac and Fox, Perkins; head gourd dancer Lawrence Murray, Otoe-Iowa, Shawnee; emcee Stanley John, Navajo, Tahlequah; and arena directors Walter and Lee Larney, Seminole, Shawnee. Jon and George Tiger are the powwow coordinators.

The archery tournament will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Requirements are regulation bows with no sites. The $8 entry fee is to be paid at registration time, which begins at 3:30 p.m. First, second, and third place trophies will be awarded. James Charles is coordinating the tournament.

At 1 p.m., Monday the domino tournament will be held at the community center, located at 702 Forest Ave. The entry fee is $5 for individuals or "head-up." Registration will begin at noon. Trophies will be awarded for first, second, and third place. Taylor Fields is in charge of the double elimination tournament.

A horseshoe pit will be open three days for anyone wanting to play.

Arts and crafts spaces are available at $50 for three days or $20 daily. The space size is eight by 10 feet. Participants must provide their own set-up. Electricity is available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Food concession spaces are already filled. Buffalo burgers, Indian tacos, and sofke are among foods that will be available.

Security will be provided during the powwow.

"We've got a pretty clean powwow and we've always been complimented on that," Tiger said of the patrolled powwow.

"We'd like to invite all communities and organizations to come out and be a part of the powwow," he said.

For more information, call the community office at (918) 689-5066 or 5407.

Crow wants to make government more responsive

continued from page 2

our government is to take. This should include preventative measures in all areas of health care, property management, and financial investments. We must learn to accurately measure trends and anticipate future trends from what we have learned. We certainly can not afford to be among those"... who don't know what hit them."

9)"decentralize authority" — Decentralization is uncomfortable to most of us, when we have to trust someone else to make the decisions we have always made. However, we must also realize that those working directly with the programs should have an understanding of the constituents being served as well as we do. Since trust is earned, finding the proper personnel that personally assures us that our constituents needs are as important to them as they are to us can be a long process. Therefore, we must seek employees that are willing to spend the time and effort to earn this trust. Once this trust is earned, we must give these individuals the opportunity to be innovative and make some of the decisions the central authority has always made. Since participatory management encourages innovation and high employee morale, perhaps we can achieve the established goals and mission of the organization by implementing such ideas.

10) "solve problems by leveraging the marketplace, rather than simply creating public programs" — This is a relatively new theory for governmental agencies and difficult to convince all people to buy. However, when we realize the choices that the marketplace provides, we must acknowledge that this will empower our people as well as our communities. A certainty with all leaders is to empower the people.

We are definitely moving in this direction under the leadership of Principal Chief Bill Fife. It is a very difficult task to accomplish within a tribal organization, since leaders come and go. However, Chief Fife has made a long-term commitment, and is sharing his vision of change with personnel as well as community leaders. I would encourage participation in this change. Not only will it give everyone an opportunity to learn, it will also instill the conviction that goals can be achieved no matter how high.

In brief

Sapulpa group to host genealogy workshop

SAPULPA — The Sapulpa Genealogical Society will feature Marybelle Chase in a genealogical forum Aug. 29 beginning at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church 1401 E. Taft in Sapulpa.

Chase is a native Oklahoman of Cherokee descent. She has been a researcher of Indian genealogy and history for 14 years. Chase will discuss researching Indian rolls and census, five civilized tribes records, and identify sources for Indian research.

Cost for the seminar is $17. Checks should be made payable to the Sapulpa Genealogical Society, Indian Research Seminar, 1015 E. McLeod, Sapulpa, OK 74066.

Cherokee holidays set for September

TAHLEQUAH — The 40th Annual Cherokee Holiday will be held Sept. 3 through 5. Among events to be held are: a gospel singing; an honor reception for original enrollees; children's events; an eight kilometer run; Region 8 Indian Rodeo finals; cornstalk shoot; blowgun competition; horseshoe pitch; marble; golf; tennis; and men's and women's softball tournaments.

For more information, contact Lynn Howard, Cherokee Nation communications department, at (918) 456-0671, ext. 212.

Seminole Nation Days scheduled

SEMINOLE — The 24th Annual Seminole Nation Days Celebration is scheduled for Sept. 11 through 13 with activities for everyone. For more information on activities and events, call Famous Marshall at (405) 257-6604.

Notice of public hearing

The National Council's governmental operations committee is holding a public hearing for discussion of a proposed bill that would standardize chartered communities in organizational structure. This includes a board of trustees for all Muscogee (Creek) Nation chartered communities.

The hearing will be held at 6 p.m., Aug. 25 in the Council chambers at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee. Written comments will also be accepted.

Tiger remains confident

continued from page 1

people to live healthier and longer lives, she said.

Tiger believes she has been HIV-positive since 1989, although it hasn't affected her T-cell count. She is asymptomatic, which means she is physically healthy, but a carrier of HIV antibodies. Tiger is being treated by a Tulsa physician who will determine if she needs to be put on AZT, the controversial drug given to both symptomatic and asymptomatic HIV carriers.

Contending drug and alcohol abuse are behaviors linked to HIV infection, Lisa believes drug and alcohol counseling are paramount in HIV prevention.

"When you drink you are more likely to become involved in a sexual encounter (that) you may have not been involved in if you were sober."

She also asserts tribal health care systems should make condoms accessible to everyone.

The 1967 accidental shooting of her father, renowned artist Jerome Tiger Sr., instilled a great value, as well as fear, for the lives of loved ones at an early age.

"I've always been real terrified, growing up, that I was going to lose somebody. I was thankful, everyday, that I had all my family. I was thankful my dad died when I was young and wouldn't remember. When Chris died, I was completely lost. For two years I'd have nightmares."

In May 1990, Chris was slain with a gunshot to the head by Larry Butcher. In 1991 Butcher began serving a 40-year sentence in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for first degree manslaughter.

With her family's tragedies behind her, Tiger said her life is better now.

When her Choctaw friend Kevin Billy was murdered last May, she said she gained strength from the memory of their close friendship. Tiger said the acceptance of Billy's death made her realize she was denying herself the ability to heal through Chris' memory.

"I realized I couldn't deal with my brother's death. I couldn't draw strength from my brother's memory."

Ironically, her new outlook can be attributed to her positive testing for HIV, which helped lead her to the acceptance of Chris' death.

"It seems kind of weird, but my life seems a lot better now. I've been trying and trying, beating my head up against the wall, just trying to accept his death and I never could until this happened to me. Now, I can accept his death; I feel his strength and I feel him for the first time in two years."

Her strength and positive attitude can just as well be attributed to her mother Peggy, and sister Dana, known women's rights activists.

"I've been strong for all of them. I couldn't do what I'm doing with out my mother, and my family, and my sister."

Tiger is continuing her hobbies — jogging, exercising, and video taping friends. She is focused on remaining healthy and living for a long time.

"I'm shooting for living a long time. I can see myself (as) an old lady."

AIDS cases increasing among Indians

OAKLAND, Calif. — Between 1988 and 1990 the number of Native Americans diagnosed with AIDS has increased 61 percent in comparison with an overall gross increase of 14 percent in the United States.

Statistics don't mean it will continue to escalate, but that Native Americans were exposed to HIV later than other races, said Ron Rowell, National Native American AIDS Prevention Center executive director.

"In the early years (of infection) it grows rapidly and (eventually) slows down," Rowell explained.

The recent HIV-positive testing of prominent Indian artist family member Lisa Tiger has made the incurable disease a reality to many Creeks.

"I don't believe most Native Americans think about (HIV and AIDS) one way or another. I don't believe people, by nature, take a look at it unless it hits close to home," Rowell said.

Ranking behind blacks and Hispanics, Native Americans have the third highest placing for HIV-positive testing in the nation, Rowell said. Forty-eight of 388 reported cases of Native Americans with AIDS live in Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma HIV and AIDS Surveillance Newsletter and the Centers for Disease Control's Alaska Native-American Indian AIDS cases through June 1992. On a zero-prevalence survey, 4,000 reported and unreported Native American cases are determined to be HIV-positive, Rowell said. In Oklahoma, 89 Indian HIV cases have been reported, according to the newsletter.

By the year 2000, the World Health Organization predicts more than half of all newly infected adults will be women. Rowell contends because of the female anatomy, women are more at risk to transmission than men, in any sexual situation.

According to the CDC's reported AIDS cases through March 1992, 50 Indian females have AIDS. Rural native women are HIV infected four to eight times as much as other rural women, varying from state to state, he said. Rowell contributes this to intravenous drug use, which multiplies the risk factor. Because judgement is impaired when under the influence, drug users are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior, he said.

Rowell believes that tribal leaders must make the prevention of HIV a priority. He contends tribal officials should be concerned and motivated to implement prevention programs because of several factors:

- it is easily preventable;
- there is no cure;
- AIDS is a fatal disease and;
- tribes will be faced with expending large sums of money to treat the disease.

Because some Indians practice behaviors linked to HIV infection, preventing HIV will also prevent the same actions that cause, for example:

- alcohol and drug abuse;
- fetal alcohol syndrome;
- liver diseases;
- sexually transmitted diseases;
- teen pregnancy;
- tuberculosis and;
- violence.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Shelly Crow said the tribe has developed an HIV and AIDS education program which will be presented to Creek communities. She said the tribe hopes to implement the program by September. Crow added tribal employees, community, and Council members in contact with tribal citizens who are HIV-positive or at high risk, will take training to become state certified HIV and AIDS educators.

Aerosol Pentamidine and AZT are drugs available to HIV-positive Native Americans through the Indian Health Service, Rowell said.

Native American communities have shown no general response to infected tribal members, said Rowell, an Oklahoma Choctaw. Tribes have responded in many ways, he said. There are some that have found their communities very supportive, worked with native healers, and held talking circles, he said, "and there are others (that) have responded with violence and hate."

To a great extent we have cultures who are very concerned with nurturing people who are sick, Rowell said. Because of the existence of extended families and a strong sense of community, Rowell believes that "on the whole" native people are dealing with HIV and AIDS better than other races.

Rowell contends that the prevention of HIV will be most effective at the grassroots level — starting within the home and community.

People are taught that they already have the tools they need to prevent and deal with HIV and AIDS:

- know who lives in your community;
- know how community members think and talk;
- know who people listen to;
- know where people hang out and;
- know what the major problems are that put people at risk in your community, he said.

Rowell said it is important to help people become responsible.

"Take responsibility for your actions. No one else can give you AIDS; you've got to participate."

The Ahalaya Project, a project of the NNAAPC, provides support groups and case management services for Native Americans with HIV and AIDS.

The Ahalaya Project, 1200 N. Walker, Suite 605, Oklahoma City, OK 73103-3743, or phone (405) 235-3701.

In the Tulsa area call: The HIV Resource Consortium, (918) 749-4194.

Prevention, not just revenge, motive to report former boyfriend to police

continued from page 1

detective John Lauderdale is investigating the case, Tiger said. Lauderdale will interview her ex-boyfriend and turn the investigation results over to the Muskogee County District Attorney's Office to determine further action, she said.

Tiger said she filed the report and notified the health department to try and prevent his infecting other people.

"I plan on making his life rough, not just for revenge, for the safety of other people."

Tiger said it has been rumored he has had homosexual relationships and knew he was HIV-positive before they began dating in 1988. Tiger contends she contracted HIV from him because she tested negative for HIV in January 1988 and has had two long-term, monogamous relationships in the past seven years.

"In 1989 I talked to him about AIDS, asked him if he'd ever used needles, and ever been with a man. I just questioned him continuously and he lied," she said.

But he did tell her he may have contracted the disease from a woman he picked up at a Muskogee nightclub, she said.

The couple cohabitated for two years until Tiger broke up with him in 1991. After separating, she said a reliable source confirmed the rumors she had heard. When she saw him in late June she was concerned about his drastic weight loss, yet jokingly asked him if he had AIDS. His 40-pound weight loss prompted her to get tested. Tiger said she wanted to be sure she was healthy in the event she became involved in another relationship.

"I didn't think it was going to be positive; I really didn't."

The day she received her test results, Tiger also learned her ex-boyfriend was hospitalized with pneumonia. On July 7, his sister called to tell Tiger her brother had AIDS.

"I know he's thinking 'I gave this to the wrong person,' because I'm going to fight him with all the energy I've got."

The Muscogee Nation News

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 10

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447

October 1992, 16 Pages

INSIDE:

News

Council approves more than $500,000 for community development block grants for FY 1993

Communities

Communities slate Halloween parties, plan for Thanksgiving and Christmas programs

Commentary

Tribal policy analyst Robert Trepp comments on the Columbus Day discovery hype

$ $

The most comprehensive budget ever receives approval. Page 3.

Who's who. The people who make things happen. Pages 8 and 9.

Special election for Muskogee and Okmulgee district voters. Page 4.

How Indians should respond to Columbus Day

by Robert Trepp, policy analyst

Unfortunately, it's time to think about Columbus Day. It is not the kind of thing Indians want to think about, but this year is different. The event is being celebrated at the movies, on television, and in newspapers and magazines as the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. Indians may want to discuss the media hype with children, friends, and neighbors.

The Vikings were here before Columbus, and the Chinese before them. There are evidences of African explorations on this continent, but before all of them, there were people here. And whether Creeks believe Mvskoke legends about the beginning of time — when the white towns came down from the sky and the red towns came up from the ground, or whether you believe the scientists, who talk about small bands of Asians migrating to the east between 13,000 and 25,000 years ago — the peoples of the western hemisphere had been here a long, long time.

Beginning in 1492, Europeans discovered a lot of things about the people of the western hemisphere which had not been known before. The basic "new" things are easy to identify; hundreds of plants not known in Europe were being used by the indigenous people for food, spices, or to cure disease. Plants from hot peppers to the cacao bush, transformed the way that the world ate; and crops such as corn transformed the ability of the world to feed itself.

But another discovery is seldom discussed: Europeans found two continents of people living in liberty, with governments based upon the consent of the governed. The modern concept of liberal democracy grows from facts surrounding the tribal governments which existed here 500 years ago — people were free to discuss, at liberty to dissent, and obligated to participate in decisions about the affairs which concerned their lives and families. Even ancient Greece had no precedent for this depth and breadth of true democracy. Athenian officers were "elected" by drawing names in a lottery. The "frank" (vote) of the Franks (the tribe which conquered the Romans for France) was only the vote to elect a king. The "rights of Englishmen" established by the Magna Carta were limited to the aristocracy. Only in the western hemisphere was true democracy known and practiced almost universally.

As Europe's philosophers thought about this, they reached conclusions which changed the course of human history. It is not surprising that 1492 marks the boundary between the last medieval philosopher, Marcillius of Padua, and the first modern philosopher, Machiavelli. And as those studies widened, they envisioned mankind in a state of nature (based upon understandings and misunderstandings about tribal cultures here), leading British philosopher John Locke to a discussion of a native Utopia, and leading French philosopher Jean Rousseau to conclude that "Man is born free, but lives everywhere in chains."

Democracy, in its most pure and true sense, is the greatest gift of the Americas to the rest of the world.

Who discovered the "New World?" In a sense, all of us did. The year of 1492 changed everything that everyone believed to be true. The Europeans discovered that their patrilineal culture, with a competitive economy which always included an underclass, was too harsh. For

please see **HISTORY...**, on page 15

Letters to the editor

McIntosh rep responds to editorial

Editor:

This is a response to the article that appeared in *The Muscogee Nation News* "What is the Council worth?[*sic*]"

While reading this article my first thought was that [it is] like the pot calling the kettle black. In the reversal of the question, what is the communications department worth?

If you will notice, 80 percent of the information [appearing in] *The Muscogee Nation News* has already past. That is not news; when the events are days past, that is history. Within this same article, editor Jim Wolfe stated the Council's budget is draining the tribes finances and made reference to the Council receiving stipends set by ordinance. Several years ago, I recall the Council voted no pay raises. Contrary to tribal law, the past administration gave pay raises to employees across the board. I do not recall Wolfe, nor anyone else, refusing the pay raise or [saying] this was wrong. Wolfe, you broke the law. I am surprised you would have the audacity to even mention stipends of the National Council, when your salary would pay approximately nine council members.

In the article regarding the reduction of the Council, you quoted me as saying it "was unfair and unnecessary." If you are going to quote me, get your facts correct and accurate. I said it was unfair to the Council members that have large districts; several communities within a district would do nothing, but hurt our constituents — that (is) like the pot calling the kettle black, to say the least!

Tommy Newton, McIntosh District Representative

Editor's note: Newton apparently has misunderstood the intent of the editorial "Constituents determine Council's worth," (*The Muscogee Nation News*, September 1992 issue). In response: the editorial did not claim the National Council was a drain on the tribal treasury, but rather that that was one of the arguments presented in support of Council reduction; in any format it would be difficult to *predict* the news; and no law was broken. During the 1990 budget negotiations, the Council established a three-tiered structure for pay raises: six percent for employees earning less than $30,000, three percent for those earning more than $30,000, but less than $40,000; and no increase for those earning above $40,000. Then, as now, the editor earned less than $30,000. Through the third quarter of fiscal year 1992, Newton had received more than $7,000 in stipends and reimbursements.

Reader upset with teens' actions

Editor:

I have had mixed feelings about something that happened recently. I don't know whether to be angry or sad.

Our oldest church member is 99 years old and lives in Beggs with a daughter. As I and three people visited with them, they began to tell about teenagers trying to open their locked doors one morning in broad daylight. We questioned who would do such a thing in a small town. I am saddened to say the teenagers were Indians from Sapulpa — one girl and three boys.

Because I am a Creek, I sympathize with the parents and am hurting inside for these young people.

Naomi Thompson, Muskogee

Company owner makes disclaimer

Editor:

I, Don Crawley, owner of Crawley Construction Co., did not do the rennovation work to Velma Stout's Glenpool home as alluded to in the "Letters to the editor" in the September edition of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

Don Crawley, Eufaula

Corrections

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Farm Authority board member Cleo Robinson is a former manager of the Middle Creek Ranch and not the present manager as was reported in the August edition.

Also, the Okmulgee dental clinic phone number is 756-4667. The number was reported incorrectly in the September edition.

Norma Jean Snead was identified incorrectly in the September issue.

Copies of tribal attorney general opinions are not available until the end of the year for a nominal fee.

Snead

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the tribal capitol complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News,* unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News,* guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-visual specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as a public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursday, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Friday, 8 a.m., Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
KRAF-Holdenville, 1370, Saturday, 3 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sunday, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturday, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sunday, 11:15 a.m.
KUSH-Cushing, am 1600, Saturday, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Awarded for general excellence by the Native American Journalists Association

Council Oak ceremony set for late October

The Seventh Annual Council Oak Ceremony will be held Oct. 25 at the Council Oak Park, located at 18th St. and South Cheyenne Avenue in Tulsa.

The annual ceremony commemorates and honors the courage, preserverance, and traditions of Mvskoke people, said Thomas Berryhill Jr., Creek National Council member. The oak tree marks the site at which the Locv Pokv Creeks re-established their tribal town after removal from their Alabama homeland.

As chair of the council's social services, health, and cultural committee, Berryhill is coordinating the ceremony which the committee has set for the third Sunday of each October. It will feature contemporary and traditional Creek leaders, City of Tulsa officials, a stickball game, and traditional dancing.

photos by
Stephanie Berryhill

Mvskoke and Yuchi players play a pole game at Veterans Park.

Council Oak Agenda

12 noon -

Potluck dinner for participating ceremonial grounds at Veterans Park, 17th St. and Boulder Avenue

2 p.m. -

Opening ceremony: Kenneth Childers, Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Invocation: Rev. Taylor Harjo Jr., Tulsa Indian Methodist pastor

Welcome address: Bill Fife, Creek Nation Principal Chief

Presentation of colors: Mvskoke Nation Vietnam Era Veterans

Lighting of symbolic fire: Toney Hill and Simon Harry, Greenleaf and Duck Creek ceremonial grounds' mekko and second chief

Significance of sacred fire: Earl Wheeler, National Council

Introduction of traditional leaders: Thomas Berryhill, coordinator

Introduction of council members: Clarence Cloud, National Council Speaker

Introduction of city officials: Principal Chief Fife

Reading of proclamation: Susan Savage, City of Tulsa mayor

Presentation of gift to mayor: Principal Chief Fife

Dismissal: Spencer Frank, Yvhiketv

2:45 p.m. -

Men and women's stickball game

Dance: opening dance (Yuchi)
friendship dance (Mvskoke)
regular dancing
closing - old dance (Mvskoke)

Council approves community block grants

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council appropriated more than $500,000 in community development block grants for communities at its September session.

Though admitting that not every community received what had been requested, the 31-member tribal legislature approved the modified requests. The lone dissenting vote was cast by McIntosh District Representative Sandy McIntosh.

Twenty-one chartered communities, churches, ceremonial grounds, and the Mvskokulke Etvlwa Etelaketa Tribal Town Center in Okemah all received funding for fiscal year 1993 projects.

The Council requires all applicants to submit detailed financial reports to account for funds by April 30. The ordinance reads that those applicants that do not comply risk losing future funding.

In other business, the Council:

— approved a lease agreement of 41 acres of land to Byrd Farrow Jr. The agreement was considered at the August session and was returned to committee. It was not approved at the August session as was reported in

Please see COUNCIL...,page 15

Greenleaf and Tallahassee ground members Linda Alexander and Lillian Proctor shield themselves from the sun at the Sixth Annual Council Oak Ceremony.

Special National Council election set to fill vacancies for Muskogee, Okmulgee districts

Five vie for vacant Okmulgee seat, two contend for Muskogee

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board has called for an Oct. 24 special election to fill two seats on the tribal National Council created by the resignations of representatives George Almerigi and Harley Little.

Almerigi, a former Okmulgee rep., resigned his seat to work for the tribe's attorney general's office. Little, a former Muskogee rep., resigned to assume the position of community services director for the tribal administration. Tribal ordinance prohibits elected officials to be employed with the Creek Nation.

Okmulgee polling places are: Dewar Indian community center, 402 Louella St., Dewar; and the Creek Nation tribal dining room at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56 in Okmulgee.

Muskogee voters can cast their ballots at the Muskogee Indian Commnity center, 111 S. Virginia, Muskogee.

The following are the candidates and their statements.

Okmulgee District Seat D

Jim B. Harjo

Harjo

Harjo is the son of the late Jim B. and Lena Wind Harjo. He is of the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and the bear clan. He is married to Nettie Coser Harjo and together, they have three children.

He is a former social development specialist for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and has worked on the Alabama-Quassarte governing committee.

"I feel that the Okmulgee District has many problems that need to be addressed and not forgotten once an individual has been elected to the Council. Though the problems still exist, the people are forgotten again after the election.

"Who is to say where priorities are to be ranked, whether it is health care, employment, or education? That can only be determined by each individual's needs. The needs of the Creek citizens [will be] my number one priority, whether it is large or small; it still needs to be addressed."

Emanuel Morgan

Morgan

"The position of National Council representative is one of great responsibility. A council representative must be knowlegeable of tribal politics and be willing to speak out for his constituents.

"With my educational background, work experience, and knowledge of tribal government, I am motivated and have the desire to work for you, the Creek citizen. Therefore, as a life-long resident of Okmulgee County, I ask for your support and vote on Oct. 24."

Lahoma Hicks Schultz

Schultz

Hicks-Schultz is the daughter of George and Mollie Jones Hicks. She is a graduate of Bacone College and Northeastern State University. Hicks-Schultz is working on her master's degree in counseling psychology. She is a former teacher on the Navajo reservation and has been a realty clerk for the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe. Schultz is a member of the Trans-Voc., Inc. Advisory Board and Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church.

She is married to Bobby Schultz. She has two children, Cheyenne and Faren.

"The needs of the Creek citizens, and the elderly in particular, are not being met. Many people are having to do without services and this shouldn't be.

"I've seen - first-hand - the need to help people who are less fortunate. It's our duty to help people get back on their feet. We can't expect problems to go away overnight, but we can expect the tribe and the state to be responsive. Right now that isn't happening. Tribal leadership is minimal in serving Creek citizens.

"There are people in our local and state government who are trying to take away our right to self-rule. I will not let that right be taken away by anybody. There won't be anymore broken treaties."

Bobby Williams

Williams

"I will always have a positive attitude toward the decision making powers of the Council and use this position to have a positive impact on the tribe in the following areas: education; economic development; sovereignty; and empowerment.

"Don't let anyone fool you and tell you, 'you don't need an education.' Without it, people are stifled. We must [focus] on the education process for our youth and all ages.

"Economic development is not only a good idea or thought, it is crucial for the continual existence of our tribe. Bingo has been good, but there are other ventures that we have not seen materialize. We must diversify — not put our eggs in one basket. I believe, that with my background, we can venture into other areas that will benefit our tribe in many years to come.

"Our Creek Nation status, as a nation unto a nation, [enables us to] develop into an even greater tribe, if we continue to stand [firm] on issues that will affect our tribe. I will support our position as a sovereign nation."

Williams said empowerment allows individuals to assume control over their own lives. He also feels the Council should not dictate decisions affecting citizens' lives, but be accountable to Creek people.

"We need to hear from all levels of our tribe, the children, youth, and all adults."

Darla Jean Yocham

Yocham

Yocham is the daughter of Lucy Chisolm Gay of Okmulgee, and the granddaughter of the late Mose and Minnie Kelly Chisolm. She was born in Claremore and raised in Okmulgee, where she graduated from high school.

"I am presently employed at the Okmulgee County Assessor's Office. Previously, I worked at the Creek Nation Housing Authority for 13 years. I have attended night classes at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee and have taken several accreditaion courses, as required by state law for the assessor's office.

"I feel my experience working at the housing authority has given me not only the opportunity to work with my people, but also insight to the problems that are affecting the Creek people.

"I will represent the people of Okmulgee District to the best of my ability. I will not be afraid to speak up for you or to represent you at any type of meeting, be it [the] National Council, community, housing, etc. If you need me, I will be there to help you.

"I will work with the Council and the administration for the Creek people, so that the services provided by the Creek Nation will benefit not only you, but the entire Creek Nation."

Muskogee District Seat B

Charlie Coker

Coker

"My qualifications to serve are that: I am seven-eights Creek; I speak the language; I am a four-year World War II air force veteran; a graduate of Draughan's Business School and Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee, with diplomas in business; and I attended two, one-month management courses at the Universtiy of Oklahoma while employed with the U.S. Indian Health Service.

"I retired from government service in 1986, with 30 years of service. Upon retirement, I became very interested in Creek tribal politics and began attending all tribal council meetings. Attending these meetings has given me insight and knowledge of legislative functions, formats, terminology, and procedures of bills, ordinances, and agendas. Committee meetings have also been a concern of mine, as well as communities and their problems.

"My background, I believe, renders me qualified to serve as your representative. One of my primary concerns will be to study all legislative matters thoroughly and then cast my vote to benefit Muskogee District Creeks, as well as other Creeks, in viable way. Your vote for me on Oct. 24 will be appreciated greatly."

Russell Waldon

Waldon

"There are a lot of programs in the Muskogee area: Bacone College; the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the veterans administration. But, there are no real programs for Indians in the Muskogee area.

"[Because I feel] Indian children are passive, I'd like to develop programs for kids. I'd really like to see a karate program instituted. That would do two things; it gives the kids something to be interested in; and it develops self-esteem.

"I [attend] tribal town [functions]. I'd like to see a different image projected as far as tribal towns are concerned.

"If a person knows who he is, then he has an opportunity to make a choice, as opposed to someone who has been indoctrinated by [Western] religion.

"There is a general lack of participation by our people in the Muskogee area and I'd like to see more programs developed to increase participation.

"Basically, I'll be projecting the Indian philosophy to reflect today's Indian and how to use that to develop future projects."

Creeks making board changes, planning holidays

by Stephanie Berryhill

Twin Hills sponsors candidates' forum

• Twin Hills Indian Community is holding a National Council candidate's forum for Okmulgee District citizens at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at Concharty Methodist Church.

Former Okmulgee representative George Almerigi resigned to accept employment with the tribal attorney general's office.

The church is located three miles north and one mile east of state highway 16 and Bixby Road. For more information, call 733-4371 or 733-4681.

• The community also has changed its meeting location to Concharty Methodist Church at 7 p.m., the third Monday of each month. The community would like to thank Twin Hills Public Schools for the use of their facilities, secretary Pat Morgan said.

Bristow plans elders honor dinner, party

• Bristow and Kellyville Indian communities are having a dinner to honor their elders at 2 p.m., Oct. 17.

Bristow is hosting the dinner at its center. All Bristow and Kellyville community elders are invited to the dinner. Elders 75 and over will be honored with a gift. It is requested that members of both communities bring covered dishes.

• The community is holding a Halloween party beginning at 6 p.m., Oct. 31. Candy will be given away and games will be played. Parents are encouraged to bring their school-age children in costume.

. The center is located at 121 W. Lincoln.

Kellyville slates election, Thanksgiving dinner

• On Nov. 2 Kellyville Indian Community will nominate officers for its Dec. 7 election. Both dates are regular meetings and begin at 7 p.m.

• The community's Thanksgiving dinner begins at 1 p.m., Nov. 21. National Council Creek District representative Earl Wheeler is donating the turkey. Members are requested to bring a covered dish.

The center is located two miles north of Kellyville on U.S. Highway 66.

Muskogee to elect officers, receives lectern

• Muskogee Indian Community is holding its officer election at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 2.

Candidates have been selected by a nominating committee of community members. Committee members are: Betty Baker; Louise Harjo; and Willard Pittman. Nominees will be announced prior to the election. The center is located at 111 S. Virginia.

• Community member Frankie Fields donated a lectern to the center in honor of Rev. Lee Chupco, the community's first chair. The lectern was presented to the community during an August dinner celebrating the birthdays of Chupco and Harley Little, former Muskogee District Council representative.

• Diane Lowe, Creek Nation Election Board Manager, attended the community's October meeting and offered members assistance in updating their voter registrations, chair Grace Escoe said.

• Community members wish member Nancy Downum well after her recent surgery, Escoe said.

Okemah accesses tribal services for members

• Okemah Indian Community will offer breast screening examinations for male and female community members beginning at 9 a.m., Oct. 21.

The exams will be conducted by an Okemah Indian Health Center public health nurse. An instructive breast examination video presentation will be shown prior to the examinations.

Blood pressure and blood sugar screenings are also available on commodity distribution days. Commodities are distributed on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The nurse will provide the next screenings beginning at 9 a.m., Oct 21 and Nov. 4.

• Creek Nation Social Services Department and children and family services administration representatives also assist Okemah citizens on commodity distribution days. The departments will be at the center from 9 to 11 a.m., Oct. 21 and Nov. 4. Community program developer Nancy Duncan said she will assist community members wanting Creek Nation services. Her office number is 623-9227 and is located in the community center. The center is located two blocks south of Interstate 40 and state highway 27.

photo by Rita Williams

More than 200 people attended the grand opening of the Okemah Indian Community's elderly nutrition program Sept. 12. Pictured at the ribbon cutting, from left to right: March Wind, community vice-chair; Charley McGertt, Thlopthlocco town king; Jimmy Gibson, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Jimmy Jones, Creek Nation nutrition program supervisor; Mae Jackson, Creek National Council; Wilman Berryhill, community chair; Bill Fife, Creek principal chief; Shelly Crow, Creek second chief; Pearl Thomas, nutrition program manager; Charlie Litsey, Creek Council; and Press Johnson, Creek Council.

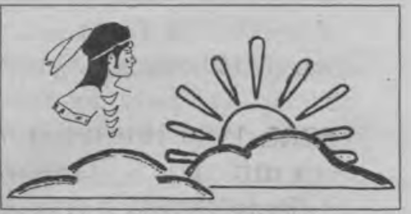
• The community's monthly grocery bingo game will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 17.

• The community has contracted to hire Rebecca Stroud through Green Thumb, an elder-disabled employment program. Since the first three months of employment is on-the-job-training, the program is paying half of Stroud's wages, and the community will pay the other half for three months Duncan said.

Stroud is working 20 hours weekly in the community giftshop. She is developing marketing strategies to promote shop merchandise, Duncan said. The community anticipates hiring more elders in the near future, she said.

• Community treasurer Loretta Noon submitted her resignation at the Sept. 21 regular meeting. Noon resigned because of professional obligations.

John Yahola is the winner of the community's logo contest. As children we are taught to respect our elders. The logo symbolizes our ancestors' spirits from above looking east to a new horizon, Yahola wrote.



Okemah community logo

Sapulpa to hold Halloween dance, seeks instructor

• Sapulpa Indian Community is holding a Halloween dance Oct. 31 at the local national guard armory.

The dance will begin at 7:30 p.m. A costume and dance contest will be held. Apple bobbing will also be part of the evening's festivities. As the dance is a fundraiser for the community's Christmas program, the admission fee is a gift for a boy or girl from birth to age 15. The armory is located west of Sapulpa off U.S. Highway 66, north of the municipal golf course.

• The community is still seeking a Mvskoke language class instructor. Classes are tentatively scheduled to start this fall.

Holdenville changes meetings to Tuesdays

• Holdenville Indian Community now meets at 7:30 p.m., on the third Tuesday of each month.

• The community board is working in conjunction with the Holdenville High School Indian Club to start a community youth council, chair Mitchell Musgrove said.

• The community's annual membership meeting, held in early October, had an attendance of 50.

• In late September, the community regained control of its finances. Because of previous civil disputes and disorder, Muscogee Nation District Judge Patrick Moore ordered National Council second speaker Jerry Wilson community lawmender in May. As lawmender, Wilson was in control of community assets. Wilson ceased the position in August.

Glenpool resumes Mvskoke language classes

• Mvskoke language classes resumed at Glenpool Indian Community center early this month. Instructor James Proctor teaches classes from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday. William Cahwee also teaches Yuchi language classes at the same time.

Cahwee and the community recently held a Yuchi language conversational speaking night and dinner. Vice-chair Virginia Nichwander and Melva Williams prepared the meal.

The community recently honored Proctor, Cahwee, and Larry Bible, National Council Tulsa District representative, with a dinner. Cahwee and Proctor were commended for their dedication to preserving the Mvskoke and Yuchi language, secretary Cheri Haney said. Bible, also City of Glenpool Police Chief, was honored for receiving the Association of Professional Police Investigators President's Award.

please see COMMUNITIES..., page 6

Communities making transition into autumn

continued from page 5

Glenpool hosts Sapulpa headstart Halloween party

• On Oct. 23, Creek Nation Sapulpa Headstart is holding a Halloween party in the community's activity building. The party, for Sapulpa headstart children, will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. The center is located one block north of U.S. Highway 75 and 141st St.

• The community is in the process of expanding its giftshop merchandise, Haney said.

Duck Creek meeting to be held in new center

• Duck Creek Indian Community members anticipate holding their 7 p.m., Oct. 27 regular meeting in their new center, vice-chair Nancy Jo Harry said.

The center is located on U.S. Highway 75 and South 241st St.

Dewar to hold bingo, readies members for trip

• Dewar Indian Community is holding its monthly grocery bingo and food sale Nov. 3.

The food sale begins at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 7 p.m. The center is located at 402 Louella St.

• The community is preparing to take members on an overnight trip to Arkansas in late October, secretary Eliza Hicks said.

Checotah holds Creek language classes

• Checotah Indian Community is holding Mvskoke language classes through mid-December.

The classes are being taught by Millie Colbert of Eufaula and will be held on the following dates: Oct. 20; Oct. 27; Nov. 3; Nov. 17; Nov. 24; Dec. 1; and Dec. 15.

• The community's social services coordinator, Tabitha Colburn, is assisting community Creeks in accessing local, tribal, state, and federal services. Colburn is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Her office is in the community center, located at 998 Maple.

Oklahoma City Creeks elect, reinstall officers

• The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association recently elected, re-elected, and reinstated five of its nine board members.

Newly elected members filling seats which terms had expired are: John Proctor, vice-chair; and Ron Smithee, board member.

Jane Milam, secretary, was re-elected. Reinstated were: Rufus "Buddy" Cox, chair; and Darlene Harjo, treasurer.

• The community will hold a Halloween party at 7 p.m., Oct. 23 in its community office. All OCMA members may come in costume or everyday clothes, Cox said. The office is located at 711 S.W. 29th.

• The community's Christmas dinner has been scheduled for Dec. 19.

Tulsa Creeks elect new board of directors

• Tulsa Creek Indian Community elected new officers at its October regular meeting.

The officers are: Norma Posey, chair; Earl King, vice-chair; Paula Perkins, secretary; Carol Morris, treasurer; and Earl Kelly, sergeant at arms.

• The community members anticipate its smokeshop will be operational late this month. The building is located at 81st and Riverside, just north of Creek Nation Tulsa Bingo.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Gourd dancers begin the festivities at the Eufaula Indian Community's annual Labor Day pow wow.

Dustin Creeks complete Mvskoke language classes

• Dustin Indian Community has completed its 14-week Mvskoke language classes.

Okmulgee community donate to hurricane victims, elect officers

• Okmulgee Indian Community recently donated $200 to victims of Hurricane Andrew, said Bernice Hale, community chair.

• Hale, and three others, were elected to community offices recently. Also elected were: Etta Checotah, vice-chair; Mary Ann Kane, secretary; and Vicki Watashe, treasurer.

Koweta resumes class, donates to high school

• Koweta Indian Community has resumed its Mvskoke hymn singing class from 7 to 9 p.m., each Tuesday. Pastor George Doyle, Snake Creek Baptist Church, is the class leader.

• Last month the community donated $1,000 to Coweta High School. The contribution will help the school purchase computers for its business department's computer program.

Tribal briefs

Housing authority claims policy for mutual help home participants

OKMULGEE — The Amerind Risk Management Corporation provides insurance coverage for mutual help homes damaged by fire, windstorm, hail, explosion, riot, civil commotion, aircraft, and smoke.

If mutual help homes under the jurisdiction of the Creek Nation Housing Authority are damaged by any of the above mentioned, it should be reported as soon as possible to the authority's JoEllen Ballard.

Ballard said the initial loss report will be filed with Amerind and they will assign an adjuster for the claim.

The housing authority will send an inspector to assess the home, Ballard said.

The inspector will complete a write-up of the damages. The housing authority will solicit bids for the repair and select a contractor to begin the repairs.

Ballard said all housing authority inspectors will be able to identify themselves upon request.

Ballard can be reached at (918) 756-8504 from 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays.

Speaker encourages tribal enrollment

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) National Council Speaker Clarence Cloud is encouraging eligible Muscogee-Yuchi Indians to enroll with the tribe.

"Too many times, I have had to tell people who needed services, that no help is available because they were not enrolled with the Creek tribe," Cloud said.

Though the tribe contracts many service programs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that are available to any Indian having proof of Indian blood, additional services from the tribe may require citizenship.

For more information, contact the Creek Nation citizenship board at (918) 756-8700.

Crow column to return next month

OKMULGEE — Because of previous commitments, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Shelly Crow's column does not appear this month. It will resume with the November editon of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

Tribe sets $70 million comprehensive budget in place for fiscal year 1993

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will operate with a $70 million comprehensive budget for fiscal year 1993.

Though the figure seems significantly more than earlier budgets, it's becuase all of the operational funds are included into the final budget document.

Principal Chief Bill Fife said all of the figures are "on the table."

Fife told the *Muskogee Phoenix* that his administration wanted a full disclosure of funds that the tribe administers, so others would know of the Creek Nation's economic impact. Fife said the budget will have a tremendous affect on local economies within the Creek Nation.

National Council second speaker Jerry Wilson, a veteran of several budget wars, echoed the Chief's sentiment.

"This administration made a significant effort to reveal all the tribal funds in a specific type document that could be read in a single budget document," Wilson said.

There was some tension, as the first budget submitted to the Council contained a deficit. After reductions and compromises were made, the 1993 comprehensive budget was approved.

Not all Council representatives were pleased. Tulsa District representative Don Cahwee voiced his displeasure that some tribal employees were expected to receive significant pay increases.

Cahwee, opposed to the budget originally, relented and voted for its approval.

"Voting "no" would not be fair to the many hardworking and deserving employees, nor to the people that are supposed to be served," Cahwee said later.

Wilson, however, was not dismayed.

"We provided for the basic services of the government and increased the services to the people, " Wilson said. "We acted like a responsible government."

The 1993 budget

Where the money will be spent in fiscal year 1993

Executive branch	$516,815
Treasury	$657,350
Administration	$990,310
Human development	$4,895,530
Community services	$3,346,427
Tribal affairs	$1,644,825
Office of justice	$236,140
Legislative branch	$451,256
Judicial branch	$425,814
Special appropriations	$1,376,886
Independent agencies	$43,345,870
Health administration	$12,586,372
TOTALS	**$70,474,595**

Employees, health care, two of the largest budget items

OKMULGEE — Two of the largest components of the 1993 comprehensive budget are the independent agencies and the health administration.

For 1993, independent agencies will account for more than $43 million of expended funds, with more than $30 million of that from operating funds.

According to Principal Chief Bill Fife's budget message, the figures include the employment of more than 2,000 employees, including those at bingo operations.

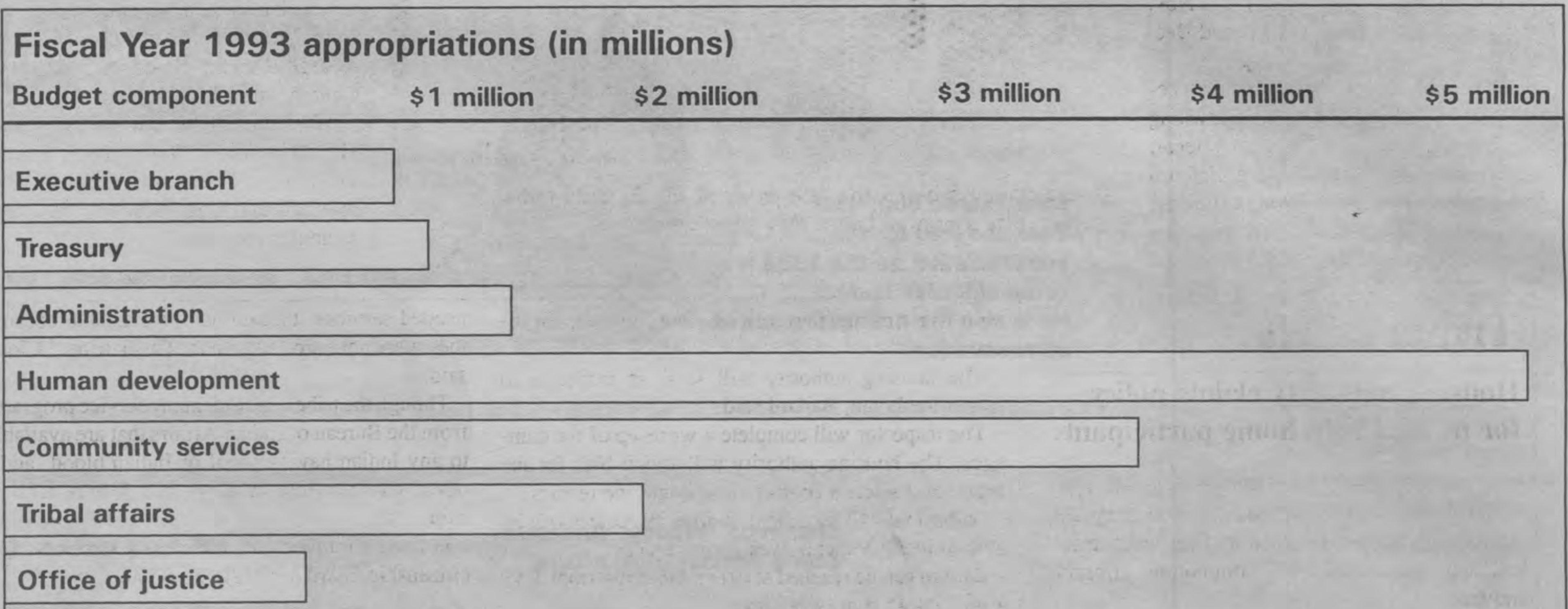
The health administration returns to the comprehensive budget. The Muscogee (Creek) National Council has set aside the tribal health system as a separate entity because of perceived management problems in 1988.

This year, the Council returned the health system beneath the administration umbrella. The health system includes the Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, and clinics in Eufaula, Okemah, Okmulgee, and Sapulpa.

For fiscal year 1993, the health systems' administration will account for more than $12 million of the budget.

Fife, in his budget message, said the budget will "have a significant impact on the social status of the Creek citizens."

The 1993 comprehenisve budget



People to watch in 1993

Joe Johnson, Supreme Court

Pat Moore, district court judge

Ed Frye, Supreme Court

Leah Ware, attorney general

Tim Harper, gaming commissioner

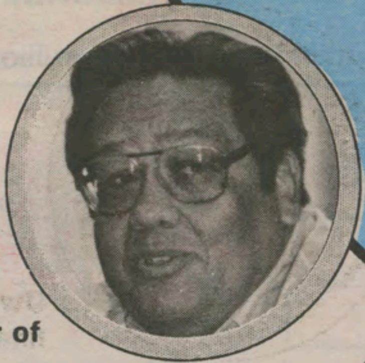
Ken Childers, housing authority, gaming commission

Joe Jackson, housing authority director

Bill S. Fife, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Critics have charged he is too slow, yet his administration has done quite well shaking the hangover of the previous tribal administration. 1993 is his first full year as chief. It's his show.

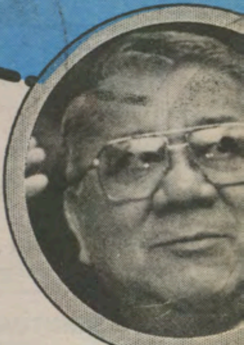
Shelly Stubbs Crow, Second Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Promised to be an active second chief and she has certainly delivered. Conscientious and assertive, Crow has a definite agenda for the Creek Nation.

Robert Trepp, policy analyst
Trepp is the administration's point man for tribal policy.



Mike Factor, controller
Took the lead for the administration on the 1993 comprehensive budget. He is also the acting director of administration.

Sherwood "Woody" Anderson, acting director tribal affairs

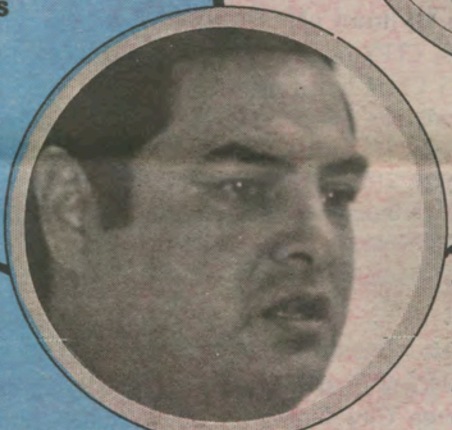


Harley Little, community servi

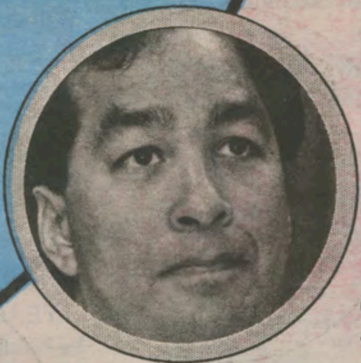
These three men are considered to be Fife's closest advisors. All were former employees of the tribe and had a significant role in the development of many of the programs and services offered by the tribe today.

Ed Mouss is an information management specialist and an excellent strategist. He has received confirmation to lead the tribe's health care administration, but it appears unlikely Indian Health Service will relinquish his services to the tribe.

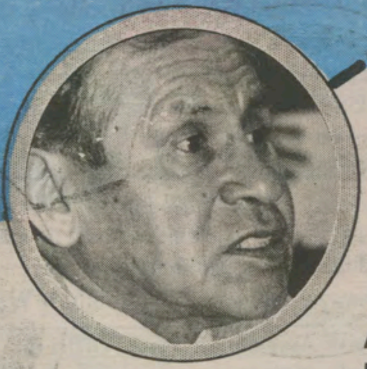
Of the three, only James King is employed with the tribe. He is a part-time, temporary consultant and one of the administration's best minds.



Jerry Wilson is the second speaker of the National Council A man of tremendous energy, intelligence, and heart.



Owen Sapulpa, finance director

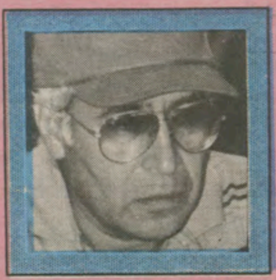


Abe McIntosh, human development director

ces director

People to watch in 1993

Clarence Cloud, National Council speaker



Thomas Berryhill, National Council

Larry Bible, National Council

Charlie Litsey, National Council

Tommy Newton, National Council

Pat Kelly, National Council

Tommy Pickering, National Council

Religion briefs

Gospel singings

Trenton to host 11th annual gospel singing

HANNA — Trenton Baptist Church is holding its eleventh annual gospel singing at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 31.

Berryhill's Quartet is the master of ceremonies.

The church is located three and one half miles west of Hanna.

Unity to host gospel singing at complex

OKMULGEE — Christian singing group Unity will be hosting its first gospel singing at the Independent Agencies Mound Auditorium, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Capitol Complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56, at 7 p.m., Nov. 7.

The master of ceremonies is also Unity.

Featured groups are: Unity, Broken Arrow; The Tulsans, Tulsa; New Direction, Oklahoma City; Harmonettes and Co., Ada; and Visionary, Muskogee. Admission is free; an offering will be taken. Concessions will be available. For more information, call Rufus Gould at (918) 251-4936.

Grant Chapel to host October gospel singing

WELTY — Grant Chapel Methodist Church is holding a gospel singing from 3 to 10 p.m., Oct. 24.

The master of ceremonies is Berryhill's Quartet. All groups and singers are invited. The church pastor is Rev. Charles Little.

Concessions will be provided.

The church is located 14 miles south of Bristow on state highway 48 and four miles west, turn south at the Grant Chapel sign. From Okemah, the church is eight miles north of state highway 48, four miles west to Welty and one half mile south.

Tribal town songfest and hogfry successful

THLOPTHLOCCO — Over 300 people attended Thlopthlocco Tribal Town's second free hog fry and gospel singing Oct. 3. Mvskoke, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole people were represented by several groups and singers that performed at the singing.

Among groups that attended were: Trenton Baptist, Hanna; Willing Heart, Oklahoma City; Chosen One, Seminole; Sister Lucille Williams, Clearview; Harmonettes and Co., Ada; Brother Shoemaker, Little Axe; Country Travelers, Durant; Prairie Springs Baptist Church, Okemah; and Revelator, Wewoka.

Jess Scott, Gene, and Junior Berryhill of Berryhill's Quartet belt out a tune while Dave Wind plays the drums.

photos by Stephanie Berryhill

Butler Creek fund-raising successful

OKTAHA — Over $100 was raised for Butler Creek Baptist Church's building fund at its annual gospel singing held in early October.

Chris Harjo was the master of ceremonies. "There was good attendance and a good time was had by all," church secretary Ida Wallace said.

Brother John Kelly has been the acting pastor. The church pastor, Rev. Spencer Wilkerson, has taken leave for the past four months. He has been caring for his ill father in North Dakota.

Oklahoma City man offering hymn tapes

OKLAHOMA CITY — George Bunny has received a shipment of 15 Creek hymn tapes. Prayers and special songs are on side one and on side two are inspirational songs. Please remit $15 for mail orders. If tapes are picked up, they are only $10. To place an order or for more information, write Bunny at: 2941 Cashion Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Revivals

Moore Indian Mission hosts Indian crusade

MOORE — Moore First Indian Mission is holding its annual Oklahoma City Indian crusade October 18th through 23rd.

The cause, entitled "The Year of the Indian Crusade" is the theme for the annual event.

Services will start at 7 nightly. The evangelist is Johnny Lay of Yakima, Washington. The music director is Tyrone Smith of Oklahoma City.

The mission is located at 201 S. Howard in Moore.

Trenton Baptist Church members Daria Hicks, Susie Hicks, and Lisa Billy perform for an audience over 300.

Spring Indian Baptist hosts youth rally

SASAKWA - A youth rally will be held at Spring Indian Baptist 10 p.m., Oct. 24.

The church is located two miles west of Sasakwa on state highway 39.

Church reopens under new name, holds revival

OKLAHOMA CITY — Indian Nations Baptist Mission, formerly New Trinity, reopened last July and will be holding a revival Nov. 15 through 18.

Max Malone is the evangelist. Services start at 7 nightly.

Sunday school starts at 6 p.m., with worship services following at 7 p.m. Bill Barnett is the pastor, Al Brennan is the song leader, and Stephanie Barnett is the pianist. Boyd Cummings and Lincoln Barnett also preach. The church is located at 4218 South Lindsey.

High Spring Baptist slates November revival

OKEMAH — Homecoming is the theme of the High Spring Baptist Church fall revival beginning Nov. 9 at the church.

Services will be held nightly at 7 through Nov. 13.

Rev. Warren Pratt, pastor, First Indian Baptist Church, Pawnee, will preach the the first three nights. Rev. Wilburn Hill, Okmulgee Indian Baptist, will preach Nov. 12 and 13.

Music will be directed by Rev. Felix Tiger, High Spring pastor. Pianist Byar Beaver of Okfuskee will accompany.

The church is located five miles south of Okemah on state highway 27.

Benefit dinner

Salt Creek Methodist slates benefit dinner

YEAGER — Salt Creek United Methodist Church will be holding a harvest dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 17th. Pumpkin, sofke, pork, beef, and blue bread are among items that will be served.

The all-you-can-eat dinner costs $5 for adults and $2.50 for children.

The church is located eight miles north on state highway 48 and two miles east of Holdenville or seven miles west on state highway 9 and two miles south of Wetumka.

1992-93 MSW Association Youth Officers
Kristina Owl - president
LeAndra Feeling - vice-president
Melissa Rae Hallum - secretary
Kelly Emarthle - treasurer
Sonya Burgess - song leader
J.T. Sumpter - usher
Corey Miller - usher
Ben Givens - pianist
Justina Givens - alternate pianist

Muscogee (Creek) Nation birthdays

Jonathan Cantrell

CLAREMORE — Judith K. Proctor and Frank Cantrell of Jenks, announce the June 29 birth of their son, Jonathan Kenny. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long at birth.

Cantrell

Maternal grandmother is Minnie Proctor of Jenks. Maternal great-grandparents are Judy and the late Andy Proctor of Hanna.

Paternal grandparents are Josephine and the late Kenneth Cantrell of Okmulgee. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Goldie and Joel Thornton.

Vince, Jordan Proctor

JENKS — Brothers Vince Neil and Jordan Proctor observed birthdays in August. Vince turned seven Aug. 23 and Jordan three, on Aug. 19. The pair are sons of Judith K. Proctor of Jenks. Maternal grandmother is Minnie Proctor of Jenks and maternal great-grandmother is Judy Proctor of Hanna.

The Proctor brothers

Creek wins Republican primary

Smith daughter of former tribal court justice

TULSA — Sally Howe Smith, daughter of Creek Nation's former Chief Justice, Elliott Howe, won the Aug. 25 Republican primary for Tulsa County Court Clerk with a landslide victory. Smith received 71 percent of the vote in her race against Stanford Lane; Smith won with 33,545 votes to Lane's 13,597. She is now in the Nov. 3 general election.

The court clerk's office supports the activities of 13 district judges, one associate district judge, and 13 special judges. The office handles the cases, files, and court records for criminal, civil, juvenile, domestic, license, probate, small claims, and traffic departments, as well as accounting functions.

In her current position, Smith oversees the activities of seven departments that feature 102 employees, and she has developed policies and procedures for the office. She coordinates the computerization of the court clerk's office, including the implementation of the total system and the retraining of all employees. Along with her duties as second in command to retiring court clerk Don Austin, Smith also teaches continuing education programs for a number of professional groups.

"I believe my training, experience, and proven abilities make me uniquely qualified to serve as court clerk," Smith said.

"I want to continue the outstanding record of service and professionalism established by my friend Don Austin. It's important we provide good service with absolute accountability to the people."

Smith is a member of the Uniform District Rules Committee by appointment of the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. She is the only appointee in the state from a court clerk's office. She has received endorsements from the Tulsa Fraternal Order of Police, outgoing court clerk Don Austin, clerk of court for the northern district Jack Silver, and the Voices of Oklahoma women.

Smith and her husband, state senator Jerry Smith, have one son, 7-year-old Tucker Judson.

Smith's father served at the Chief Justice of the Creek Nation during the 1980s.

Screechowl wins tri-county fair photography meet

SAPULPA — Travis Screechowl won six blue ribbons in photography at the 1992 Collinsville Tri-County Fair. It was held for Tulsa, Washington, and Rogers, as well as Osage, Creek, and Mayes counties.

His outstanding photo series of nature and landscape, telling-a-story photo series, photo series of people, photo series of people doing something, photo series of different subjects, and photo-news story received first place awards.

His photography of a lighthouse on lake Michigan placed second, two photographs of San Juan Capistrano Mission placed third and fourth, and his photo entitled "San Diego Sunset" placed third in the best individual photo categories.

His heritage scrapbook received the first place premium award. The 30-page chronicle contains family genealogy, award certificates, newspaper clippings, old photographs, and documents.

Screechowl is the son of Ed and Janice Screechowl, Sapulpa.

Okmulgee senior named homecoming queen

OKMULGEE — Creek senior Angela Bunner was recently named one of Okmulgee High School's seven homecoming queens.

Bunner, named basketball queen, vyed with the other sports queens for all-sports queen. Her escorts were Tiara Trujillo and Andrew Bevenue. Trujillo, seven, is the daughter of Margie Kelly of Glenpool. Her grandmother is Ethel Bunner of Glenpool. Bevenue, four, is the son of Yvonne Bevenue, Okmulgee, and grandson of Jack and Gayle Bevenue of Okmulgee.

Bunner, 17, is the daughter of Grace and Kenneth Bunner of Okmulgee. Her maternal grandmother and great-grandmother are Nora Cheek and Susie Robison Foster, both of Okemah. Her paternal grandmother is Ethel Bunner of Glenpool.

She is a member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and First Indian Baptist, Okmulgee.

Bunner

Alabama honors Harjo for her 94th birthday

Harjo

WELEETKA — Alabama Baptist Church recently honored Mattie Harjo with a birthday party for her 94th birthday.

Mrs. Harjo was born Sept. 27, 1898 to Thomas Lee and Dudy Byrd near Hanna. She married James Harjo in 1922. Mr. Harjo died at age 95. Mrs. Harjo's brother, Rev. Coleman Byrd, also died at age 95 in 1990.

She is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother of five children and one deceased offspring, 14 grand children, 17 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Harjo originally attended Weogufkee Baptist Church, but transferred her membership to Alabama Baptist Church in 1967. She was baptized in 1911. Mrs. Harjo was active in the Muscogee-Seminole-Witchita Association during its foundational stages, as well as many years after, she said. She has belonged to the MSW for 58 years. Mrs. Harjo has taught many infuential Mvskoke pastors now commonly considered to be "elders," her daughter Bernice Sealy said.

Former Creek princess accepted into first families

SAPULPA — Janita Merritt has been accepted for life membership into the First Families of the Twin Territories, a social organization sponsored by the Oklahoma Genealogical Society. Her acceptance is based on her direct descendancy from Millie Long, born in 1878 in Indian Territory. She is the daughter of Ed and Janice Screechowl of Sapulpa, and resides in La Mesa, Calif., with her husband John and son Caleb.

Merritt

Bunner part of winning team

OKMULGEE — Thirteen-year-old Creek student Jared Bunner is a member of the undefeated Okmulgee Middle School seventh-grade football team.

The seventh-grade Bullpups' record is 5-0, with three more games left in the season. Bunner plays second defense, second offense, and kick-off return.

His parents are Grace and Kenneth Bunner, Okmulgee. His maternal grandmother and great-grandgrandmother is Nora Cheek and Susie Robison Foster, both of Okemah. His paternal grandmother is Ethel Bunner of Glenpool.

Bunner

Mason senior named to academic all-state team

MASON — Mason High School senior James Deaton II has been named to the academic all-state team.

Deaton will be recognized by U.S. Senator David Boren, D- Okla., at a May 9 banquet in Tulsa. He will also receive a $1,000 scholarship from the Oklahoma Foundatin for excellence.

Deaton

Deaton, Creek-Cherokee, maintains a four point grade average (on a scale of four) and scored 33 of a possible 36 on the American College Testing program. He is ranked number one academically in his class.

Deaton is captain of the Mason Academic Bowl Team, a member of both the state and national honor societies, a scholastic all-American, a recipient of the Presidential Academic Fitness Award, the University of Oklahoma excellence award, and the state regent scholar award.

He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and major in accounting.

Deaton was nominated for the award by Mason School Superintendent Dale Smart. Deaton has credited much of his academic success to his language arts instructor Kathryn Hardy.

He is the son of Virginia Hummingbird and James Deaton. He is the paternal grandson of Norma and the late Bill Deaton. His maternal grandfather is the late David Hummingbird.

Ford Foundation providing minority doctoral fellowships

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Research Council will be administering the Ford Foundation Predictor and Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities Program.

It will offer approximately 55, three-year predoctoral fellowships and 20, one-year dissertation fellowships to Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Puerto Ricans.

Designed to increase the presence of under-represented minorities on the nation's college and university faculties, these fellowships will provide higher education opportunities for members of these minority groups. These minorities are the most severely under-represented in the nation's college and university faculties.

Fellowships will be awarded in the behavioral and social sciences, humanities, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, and biological sciences, or for interdisciplinary programs composed of two or more eligible disciplines.

The deadline for entering the fellowship competition will be Nov. 6, 1992. All inquiries concerning application material and program administration should be addressed to: Ford Foundation Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships, The Fellowships Office, GR 420A, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Creek student attends summer academy; Jacobs graduates with respiratory degree

Hicks attends academy

EDMOND — Ira Dean Hicks, Creek-Seminole, a seventh-grader at Jones Junior High School, attended the Oklahoma Christian University's Summer Education Enrichment Program for gifted and talented American Indian students.

Hicks

Students selected one special interest area to study, in addition to receiving instruction in career exploration, health, wellness, and fitness. Instruction was also given in tribal cultural activities, including music, dance, and games. Hicks was nominated as one of the outstanding students by his instructors and classmates.

At parent day, he read several poems and participated in an original skit on the legend of mosquitoes. Each student received a certificate and a shirt.

He is the son of Gary Hicks of Dewar, and Sandra and Cha-Tay Spicer of Jones. He has one brother, Joe. His grandparents are George and Mollie Hicks of Dewar, and H.E. and Mildred Thornton of Midwest City.

Jacobs graduates

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ella Mae Jacobs has graduated from Francis Tuttle Vocational-Technical Center in Oklahoma City. She received her certification as a respiratory therapy technician. Jacobs passed the board examination for respiratory certification with a 91 percent score. She is employed with Norman Regional Hospital.

Jacobs

Jacobs is the daughter of Carol and the late John P. Jacobs of Holdenville.

Education briefs

Mason school's Indian education students beginning busy year

MASON—The Mason Eagles are beginning activities at Mason Public Schools.

The Mason High School boy's baseball team placed second in the Little River Conference Tournament, held at Oiler Park in Seminole. The team is coached by Jack Brewster, first-year faculty member at Mason.

The Native American students at Mason have reorganized the Indian youth club for the 1992-93 school year.

The following were elected officers: Tina Hicks, president; Alisa Douglas, vice-president; Bonita Henneha, secretary; Jess Harjochee, treasurer; and Lorena Walters, sergeant at arms.

Douglas and Harjocee were also elected to represent the Indian club as princess and brave.

The Johnson-O'Malley parent committee met Aug. 31 with other county parent committees to discuss fund raising plans for their banquet, held each spring.

Creek leads Tulsa University soccer team, NCAA in scoring

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Glenda Moore is leading the University of Tulsa women's soccer team in scoring this season. As of Oct. 5, she was tied with Mia Hammett of the University of North Carolina, for the National Collegiate Athletic Association scoring lead.

The former Union High School star has scored 28 points, including 13 goals. Moore is a sophomore forward for the Golden Hurricane team. She was redshirted her freshman year to rehabilitate a knee she injured in high school.

She is the daughter of Glen Moore Jr., comprehenisve improvement assistance director for the Creek Nation Housing Authority.

Indian dentist center established at OU Health Sciences Center

NORMAN — A Native American center of excellence for dental education is being established at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City.

The university's college of dentistry will concentrate efforts to recruit Indians into dentistry. The program is being funded with a three-year, $485,000 grant from the bureau of health professions, a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, contact: Dr. Kevin Avery at (405) 271-1976.

Senior spotlight

Scott Emerson Freeman
School: Tahlequah High School
Parents: William and Sueann Freeman
Grandparents: Emerson and Nina Porter of Tulsa, and Margaret and the late Jess Freeman of Okmulgee
Activities: law club president; mock trial team; 1991 Boy's State; three-year concert choir member; varsity tennis; 1991 congressional youth conference; First United Methodist Church
Awards: Who's Who Among American High School Students; outstanding tennis player; outstanding student of current affairs and law
Goals: Freeman is attending Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, and is majoring in political science.

Freeman

Rights and obligations of Indian mutual help home participants

Editors note: The following information is presented as a public service announcement by the Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Creek Nation Housing Authority, and *The Muscogee Nation News*. Reprint permission from O.I.L.S.

Payments

As a mutual help and occupancy (MHO) homebuyer, the most important duty to the Creek Nation Housing Authority (CNHA) is to make house payments on time. One should always keep a personal record of payments. Be sure to get a receipt from the CNHA for each payment. Keep all check stubs, money order receipts, and-or CNHA receipts in a safe place. They might be needed to prove payments were made if the CNHA should ever attempt to collect back house payments.

Maintenance and minor repairs

A homebuyer is responsible for maintenance of the home: including painting; routine care of well and septic systems; and minor repairs on the home (such as replacing broken windows). Although many homebuyers believe that CNHA has the responsibility to maintain and repair the home, most housing authorities believe just the opposite. They feel that the MHO agreement requires the homebuyer to make all repairs, unless the house was discovered to be defective within a year after it was built and the homebuyer immediately reported the defect. To avoid problems, try to keep the home painted, the grounds clean, and make minor repairs.

Major repairs

The courts have not yet decided whether the homebuyer must make major repairs of the home such as: to stop flooding of the home by rainwater; or rewiring a home that is a fire hazard. Maintenance and repair disputes have existed since the start of the MHO program. A case presently before the Oklahoma Supreme Court may settle this question. Meanwhile, put all requests for major repairs in writing, with a date on the letter, and keep a copy of the letter. Sometimes the CNHA has special funds for certain kinds of repairs. Sometimes they will make repairs and add it to the balance which you owe on the home. Many times however, they cannot help because of a lack of funds. It is not a good idea to stop payments to the CNHA for their failure to make major repairs, unless an attorney has been consulted.

Late payments

Talk with a CNHA employee if a monthly payment cannot be made and explain why. The CNHA and the individual can then make a written agreement to repay back rent, and determine consequences if payments are not made. Both parties must then sign the agreement. The agreement should be made before CNHA ever goes to court. The CNHA can check to see if the plan is being followed thirty days after you sign the agreement. If the agreement has not been followed, CNHA can send notice that the MHO agreement is no longer valid. Then, they can bring suit in state or tribal court, asking a judge to order eviction, pay back rent, filing fees, and the CNHA's attorney fees.

If the CNHA sues in state or tribal court, one should receive a summons, either by personal services, U.S. mail, or home delivery, to appear in court. It will state court date and location.

Consult an attorney; act quickly since the court date will usually occur a few days after receipt of the

please see RIGHTS..., page 15

National, area notices

Artists coooperative forming

SEATTLE — The Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families has contracted research to be gathered on arts cooperatives and related organizations which assist Indian artisans to market their work.

Information collected will be used to document existing arts cooperative organizations and to research the need and desire for development of such organizations on the Indian arts community level.

Project researchers are interested in hearing from Native American arts organizations, tribal museum gift shops, and similar organizations which market Native American arts products. Project staff are also interested in hearing from artisans and others interested in knowing more about such organizations. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Sunburst Arts Coop Project at: 1 (800) 258-0561 or write 423 W. Republican St., Suite A, Seattle, WA 98119.

Intertribal agriculture meet set

LAS VEGAS — Indian farmers and ranchers from across the country will be meeting in Las Vegas for the Intertribal Agriculture Council's Sixth Annual Indian Agriculture Symposium, Dec. 9 through 12. Sponsored by Phoenix area tribes, this year's symposium, "Indian Agriculture: Past, Present, Pathways to the Future," will be held at Bally's Casino-Resort (formally MGM Hotel). This year's symposium will be directed at youth, featuring workshops on issues and programs in Indian agriculture, and related fields. The IAC estimates approximately 600 persons will attend this year's event.

Registration is $100, although discounts for pre-registration and groups are available. The registration fee includes all sessions, workshops, and an awards luncheon. The IAC has negotiated special room rates at Bally's and reduced air fares with Continental Airlines. To receive a symposium registration packet or exhibitor application, contact Kristi Madden at: IAC, 100 N. 27th St., Suite 500, Billings, MT 59101, or call (406) 259-3525.

Loan program to help minorities

STILLWATER — The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has a new loan program designed to help members of socially disadvantaged groups, including minorities, acquire land for farming in Oklahoma, FmHA state director Ernest Hellwege said.

"Under the new program, FmHA will try to find persons who are interested in farming and can qualify for an FmHA farm ownership loan. The agency is prepared to sell or lease farms held in its inventory, if any are available in the county, or make a loan for purchase of land on the open market," Hellwege said.

The FmHA can also provide other loan and technical assistance, if needed, to help the borrower get started. Socially disadvantaged population groups include Native Americans.

"Persons who think they might be eligible and are farmers or who would like to become farmers are urged to contact the Farmers Home Administration county office serving their area," Hellwege said. The offices should be listed in local telephone books.

Running team being formed

NORMAN — Indian runners age 14 through 19 are being recruited for the Wings of the Southern Plains Cross Country Team.

Team sponsor is the Jacobson Foundation of Norman.

The foundation announced the uniformed team will compete in The Athletic Congress Cross Country National Championship in Kenosha, Wis., during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The qualifying race for the team is held in conjunction with the Jim Thorpe Marathon and Festival Nov. 14 in downtown Oklahoma City. Advanced information and registration for the qualifier is available from: The Jim Thorpe Association, P.O. Box 24045, Oklahoma City, OK, 73124, or by phone at (405) 232-3060.

Legal service resumes circuit

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Indian Legal Services staff attorney Ange Hamilton will offer legal assistance on the first Monday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The legal service is a statewide non-profit law firm providing services to low-income Indian citizens with problems within the following areas:

— Indian child welfare;
— Indian housing issues;
— natural resources and land problems;
— tribal sovereignty issues; and
— individual rights that involve Indian status.

For more information, contact O.I.L.S. at 1 (800) 658-1497.

Business assistance available

NORMAN — Tribal Government Institute of Norman, has been funded for its second year of operation by the U.S. Department of Defense. The TGI offers a free service of assisting Indian-owned businesses to obtain federal contracts for their goods and services. Chair Bob Gann said the last quarterly report to the defense department reflected 2.8 million dollars of federal contracts were awarded Oklahoma Indian-owned businesses using TGI's free service. Gann noted that any Indian-owned business in Oklahoma is eligible to participate in TGI's Procurement Technical Assistance Program. For further details, contact TGI at: (405)-329-5542.

Fall fest set for late October

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Institute of Indian Heritage will present its Fourth Annual "Spirit of the People Fall Fest" Oct. 23 and 24. The activities are scheduled for the Myriad Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

The activities begin with an Indian art auction to benefit Oklahoma Indian artists and the institute. It will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 23 in the Myriad President's Room. The Fall fest will be held at the Myriad. The activities begin at 10 a.m. with cultural demonstrations. These demonstrations will be held in the president's room and the arena.

Other activities include: a pageant on the history and evolution of dance; arts and crafts; a dance contest: and intertribal dancing. The institute is a consortium of 30 tribes dedicated to the preservation and celebration of tribal culture.

For further information, contact: The Oklahoma Institute of Indian Heritage, 3001 S. Berry Road, Suite B, Norman, OK 73072 or phone (405) 329-3737.

All-Indian bowling tournament set

TULSA — The 25th Annual Indian Nations Bowling Tournament will be held Oct. 31 through Nov. 1 at Crystal Bowl in Tulsa.

Doubles and singles entries will be played Oct. 31 and multiple entries will be played Nov. 1. The entry fee is $15.

For more information: call Anna King at (918) 437-5953 or Stella Harjo at (918) 664-9384

To include your event or announcement in *The Muscogee Nation News,* submit your items 4 to 6 weeks in advance to: The MNN at P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

RICHARD BERRYHILL

TAHLEQUAH—Funeral services for Richard Berryhill, 73, of Tahlequah, were held Sept. 24, in the Hart Funeral Home Chapel with Gregg Legg officiating. Burial was in the New Home Chapel Cemetery.

He was born Jan. 27, 1919, in Okmulgee County, to Alexander and Ann Berryhill. He died Sept. 22, 1992 in Tahlequah.

A World War II army veteran, he was a retired warehouseman with Macy's Department Store.

On May 24, 1940 he and Beatrice Lowrey were married in Sapulpa.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; four brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors include: his wife, Beatrice of the home; one son, Don Berryhill of Tahlequah; two sisters, Peggy King and Mahala Chalakee, both of Okmulgee; three grandchildren; and a host of friends.

EDDIE LINDSEY

CROMWELL — Funeral services for Eddie Lindsey, 89, of Holdenville, were held Sept. 26 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church. Lindsey was born Jan. 6, 1903 in Seminole County, Indian Territory. He died Sept. 19 at Holdenville General Hospital.

Lindsey was a retired minister. He was a member of Little Quarsarty Baptist Church. He was preceeded in death by: his wife, Lucinda Noon in 1981.

Survivors include: six daughters, Josephine Camp, Pauline Deer, and Hattie Harjo, all of Wewoka, Minnie Poole of Wetumka, Lola Wakatani of Chicago, Ill., and Cletus Thrift of Oklahoma City; four sons, Thomas Lindsey of Wewoka, Andrew Lindsey of Oklahoma City, Eddie Joe Lindsey of McAlester, and Fred Lindsey of Clewiston, Fla.; one brother, Lee Chupco; 42 grandchildren; 78 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was in the Little Quarsarty church cemetery.

MATILDA HUGHES TUGGLE

WICHITA, Kan. — Funeral services for Matilda Frances Hughes Tuggle, 88, of Wichita, were held June 23 at the Tabernacle Baptist Church with Rev. George L. Embers officiating.

Tuggle

Tuggle was born Aug. 11, 1904 in Tallahassee. She was the daughter of the late Jeff and Sarah Frances. She died June 18.

She attended Tallahassee Mission Boarding School and later became a teacher. She was a member of the St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Wichita.

Tuggle was preceded in death by: three daughters, Tony Ransom, Margaret and Helen Hughes; and two sons, Jerry Tuggle and Henry Curtis Hughes.

Survivors include: Beaden Hope of Spencer; Ivory Tuggle of San Jose, Calif.; Green Littlehorn Tuggle of Sacramento, Calif.; Quinton Tuggle of Los Angeles; Herman Tuggle Sr. of Wichita; Sarah Williamson of Henyretta; 36 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; cousins; and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Herman Tuggle Jr.; Rickey Bonner; Michael Bonner; Willie Alford; Isaac Cotton; and Cecil Bledsoe.

Honorary pallbearers were: James Porter; Lorenzo Pouncil; Haskell Lyday; Gabe Lyday; Wokie Lyday; Jan Ransom; and Mark Waggoner.

Interment was in the White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Wichita.

PAULINE JAMES

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Pauline James, 60, of Bristow, were held at the Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. John Lowe officiating.

James

James was born March 14, 1932 to William and Vester Fisher in Weleetka. Her parents preceded her in death. She died Sept. 6 in Holdenville.

She was a member of Bristow Indian Community and an active volunteer at the local head start.

Survivors include: her husband, Douglas of the home; a son, Bill James and his wife, Diane of Bristow; a daughter, Shirley Holderfield and her husband, Doye of Bristow; five brothers, Amos, Bill, Jim, John, and Lawrence Fisher; four sisters, Kathryn Anson, Esther Cage, Liz Scott, and Alice Manning; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Solomon Hill; Stewart Underwood; Tom Watson; Jerry Riley; Charlie Litsey; and Mason Harjo.

Interment was in the Bad Creek Cemetery.

BUNNIE McINTOSH

EUFAULA — Funeral services for Bunnie McIntosh, 79, of Stidham were held Sept. 18 in the Merritt Funeral Service Chapel with Revs. Phil Lawrence and Boney McIntosh officiating. McIntosh died Sept. 16 at his home. Burial was in the Hawkins-McIntosh Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Richard Harris, Stanley, Roley, Stacy, and Abe McIntosh; Mac and Neil Whitson; and Leo Brasuell. Honorary pallbearers were: Andrew Hawkins; Cecil James; Martha Pittman; John Curtis; Vance Dalton; Leon Jennings; J.B. Jordon; Bobby Gray; Tom Botone; and G.W. McIntosh.

McIntosh was born in Stidham. He was a veteran of World War II, a member of the Eufaula Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8798. He was a retired civil service employee from the McAlester Ammunition Depot.

ROBERT MITCHELL

EUFAULA — Funeral services were held for Robert Mitchell, 37, of Eufaula, Sept. 5 at the Merritt Funeral Service Chapel. He died Sept. 3, 1992 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

Pallbearers were: Charles Dowling; Jon Tiger; Charles Lewis; Kenny Tomlin; Gary Walker; and Gary Tom Smith. Burial was in the Mannawa Indian Cemetery.

Mitchell was born in Eufaula, April 2, 1955. He lived there all his life. He was a member of Tuskegee Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by: his mother, Wanda Byrd.

He is survived by: his father, Lyle Mitchell of Eufaula; two brothers, Melvin Mitchell of Muskogee and Bud Mitchell of Apache Junction, Ariz; and two sisters, Wana Mitchell and Leah Beaver, both of Eufaula.

KIZZIE COLBERT GAMBLER

EUFAULA — Funeral services for Kizzie Colbert Gambler, 88, of Eufaula, were held at Tuskegee Baptist Church with Revs. James McCombs and James Colbert.

She was born Dec. 14, 1903, near Eufaula, Indian Territory. She died July 5 at McAlester Regional Hospital.

Gambler was active in her church organizations and was on several committees in the Muskogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Women's Association, up to her illness six years ago. She enjoyed sewing quilts until her health began to fail. She often wished that she could see well enough to continue sewing.

Preceding her in death were: her parents, Thompson and Ellen Colbert; husband, Billy; two sisters; and an infant daughter.

Survivors include: daughter, Mahala Francis of Eufaula; son, Taylor Phillips of the home; five grandchildren; nine great-grand children; seven great-great-grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Jeffrey Hill; Christopher Hill; Denny Francis; Kelly Francis; Robert Jackson; and Kenny Duncan.

ALEX LEWIS LINDSEY

MORRIS — Funeral services were held *Sept. 16* for Alex Lewis Lindsey, age 51, of Morris, at Weogufkee Baptist Church with Revs. James Colbert and Richmond Carr officiating. Lindsey died Sept. 13, 1992.

Lindsey was born April 27, 1941 in McIntosh County. He attended schools at Hanna, Haskell Institute, and Jones Academy. He was baptized while at Haskell Institute and was a member of Weogufkee Baptist Church. He was a truck driver.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Buddy Misko Lindsey and Melissa Wacoche Lindsey; one daughter, Lacy Mae; and a brother, Melvin Wacoche.

Surviving relatives include: his wife, Susie Ann Watson Lindsey; children, Geebee, Liza, and Tumissah of the home; sons, Buddy of Morris, Cho of Tahlequah, and Rocky of Sapulpa; daughters, Roberta Alfread of Eufaula, Ann Lindsey of Okemah, and Katherine Powell of Okmulgee; brothers, Danny of Dewar and Buddy of Tulsa; sisters, Flora Jackson of Okmulgee, and Leola West of Bristow; 17 grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends.

Interment was in the Weogufkee church cemetery. Pallbearers included family and friends.

3. Hesaketemese, mv pu Pucase Cesvs Klist Erke, merkv Erke, momet emahlvpvtketv omvlkv en Hesaketvmese,

4. Mv emahlvpvtketvn Hesaketvmeset, pume mahusan es pu mahlvpatan estemerkv ofv vpokan es emahlvpvteyvren pu feknokketv omvlkv pu mahlvpatan, vrakkuehocekvs.

5. Klist em estemerketv ep ofv sulket ocake etvpomen Klist eteropotten pum emahlvpvtketv sulket ocakekv.

Ohtotvte Svhokkolat II, 1:3-5

Future opportunities from the history of European encounter

continued from page 2

five centuries they have been modifying themselves, grasping for a democratic socialism which only now, and only in a few locations, is achieving the goal of a better society for all.

And the Americans, now all lumped together as Indians, have discovered that their values — the values of sharing, of equality, of being concerned with public good before private gain, of a matrilineal society based upon an individual's relationship with their clan and their clan's relation to other clans, of seeking balance and peace — were viable. These values that were held dear for all the good they had provided for centuries, are only now gaining the recognition so deserved all along, despite being shoved aside so the great land-grab could continue.

The traditions were ways of solving social problems. Each time a child was born, the town cleared more land to support a new member. Everyone in the community helped construct a new home. Widows, orphans, and the homeless were cared for through shared responsibility by all those in the town who had knowledge.

Young hunters were forbidden to eat the first deer they killed — teaching them that they hunted for their town and not for themselves. The search for balance amid chaos and the search for peace within a violent world, each are lessons we need to learn and apply every day.

The European invasion of America has been characterized as a racial conflict, but it did not take long for the lust of possessing material goods without sharing to turn Indian against Indian. The invasion has been characterized as a cultural conflict, but much of the cultural criticism has turned to acceptance. (Never forget that one of the reasons English preachers identified native people as barbarians was that the natives bathed daily.)

Yet the battle for land has always been present, from the first battalions of Spanish conquistadores to the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices. Should we conclude that the 'barbarian' tribes which overran Europe have now overrun the Americans as well? How many times have we had to trade land for money, only to see that eventually, inevitably, we wind up with neither?

So, how to observe Columbus Day?

It has been suggested that it is good to rise early, enjoy the sacred hours at dawn, and then set about doing what Indians have done for the millineum: to feed the homeless and hungry that European civilization drove from its gates.

Several of our tribal leaders organized a conference, "The Next 500 Years." Both are wonderful things to do.

But that day must become a special day to recommit ourselves to the struggle ahead. We must learn to outwit their system, to trade money for land. We must all re-learn the culture, that for 500 years, has been systematically removed from our consciousness.

Unity comes hard to any people, and it comes harder to Muscogee people because of the cultural fact of our diversity — hundreds of towns, dozens of clans, and 50,000 varying shades of red, white, and black.

So Columbus Day must be the day to celebrate the intersection of past and future which lies within.

Yes, there are horrible events in our history and, yes sometimes our future looks bleak. But we share a common history and a common future that allows each of us to find sources of pride and the sources of unity, balance, sharing, and peace.

The things we do and say on Columbus Day, can have a positive effect on our lives, and on the lives of our fellow Muscogee for years to come.

Alex Harjo, a student at Yeager headstart, has his ears examined by Desiree Culbertson, a University of Tulsa nursing student. The university and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation coordinated an examination project that provided physicals for the children and experience for the students.

"We're bad...

***The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.**

More than that, The MNN is the only source for news that is unique to the tribe.

We're not the only ones who think so.

The Native American Journalists Association recognized *The Muscogee Nation News* for general excellence at the 1992 NAJA conference.

To have the news delivered to your home, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department at:

P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

...we're nationwide"

photo by Jim Wolfe

Okmulgee Head start manager Barbara O'Neal assists a pupil with the hand-over-hand technique on the monkey bars at the Okmulgee Head start center.

Council approves school clothing funding

continued from page 3

Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee for its affiliation and cooperation with the tribal government;

— approved a resolution commending the Muscogee (Creek) Nation communications department. The department produces The MNN tribal paper and The MNN Radio Network. *The Muscogee Nation News* earned second place for general excellence among tribal monthly newspapers, finishing behind a Candian publication only. The radio program received honorable mention for best on-going radio show;

— approved $500 honorariums for ceremonial grounds participating in the Council Oak Ceremony, scheduled for Oct. 25 in Tulsa;

— approved $30,000 for Creek church rehabilitation programs;

— authorized the principal chief to execute a settlement in the Indian Health Service lawsuit;

— approved a resolution deploring the genocide in Bosnia-Hercegovina (formerly Yugoslavia);

— approved a resolution requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify alternatives to a proposed freeway near the Ocmulgee, Ga. mounds;

— appropriated $7,792.31 to the children and family services administration for expenses;

— adopted the comprehensive juvenile and family codes for the tribe; and

— approved the school clothing grant program for fiscal year 1993. The program will be administered by the children and family services administration. Details and guidelines will appear in the November edition of *The Muscogee Nation News.*

Housing rights information available

continued from page 13

summons. In tribal court, one may take a written request to the tribal court clerk, asking the court to allow more time before the hearing.

In state court, it is harder to get more time, and speed in obtaining an attorney is even more important. One may or may not have a defense to the suit, but remember — the only thing that will go away if the lawsuit is ignored, is the house.

For a complete copy of the brochure on individual housing rights or for more information contact: O.I.L.S. toll-free at 1 (800) 658-1497.

It's no bull!

The Muscogee Nation News Radio Network is the largest Indian radio network in Oklahoma.

It's heard on 12 stations, 14 times every week, every year.

Tune in and find out why the Native American Journalists Association recognized The Muscogee Nation News Radio Network as one of the nation's best on-going series.

The Billies enjoy the sights along the midway of the Tulsa State Fair.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department

Jim Wolfe

editor, *The Muscogee Nation News*; host of The MNN Radio Network
B.A. communications, Southwest Baptist University

associate editor, *The Muscogee Nation News*; news director for The MNN Radio Program
B.A. mass communications, Northeastern State University

Stephanie Berryhill

Anita Freeman

administrative assistant, circulation and distribution of *The Muscogee Nation News;*
attended Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Junior College)

Muscogee (Creek) Nation audio-visual specialist; producer of The MNN Radio Network
B.A. fine arts, University of Oklahoma

Gerald Wofford

Bulk rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #24
Okmulgee, OK
74447

The Muscogee Nation News

25 cents

Volume 21, Issue 11 P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 November 1992, 16 Pages

INSIDE:

News

A 15-year-old Creek-Seminole youth is accused of first-degree murder

Communities

Communities schedule Christmas programs, plan holiday activities

Commentary

Principal chief Bill Fife discusses jobs and opportunity in his holiday message

Chief Bill Fife makes plans for president-elect Clinton. Page 7.

Mvskoke veterans recall the "Great War." Pages 8 and 9.

Energy assistance available for elders in December. Page 3.

Jobs remain a priority with the principal chief

by Bill Fife, principal chief

Eleven months ago I took office as the elected principal chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Since then I have spoken personally to hundreds of tribal members about numerous issues of utmost importance. What I have heard most is that we need to increase employment. I agree completely. Unquestionably, jobs for Creek people will receive the highest priority in my administration.

Fife

Keep in mind that there are several factors to consider before bringing in a job-creating industry. For example, I told my staff that before we select an industry, it must provide quality and meaningful work, be compatible with the environment, and profitable for our tribal government.

I realize the immediate need for more jobs, however we want to be very thorough in deciding on the type of enterprise we choose to operate. Recall, the prior administration opened a few businesses and the end result was closed doors. A few months later, only a selected few benefitted. We are making cautious decisions to increase the probablity for success and long-term employment and to avoid similar results.

After meeting with several representatives from the business and industry sector, I am encouraged about the potential for creating more jobs during my administration.

During the short time I've been in office, my staff has been quite successful in providing short-term employment to many Creeks. A number of college students were employed in the Job Training Partnership Act program last summer, as well as at tribal bingo enterprises.

The Creek Nation Construction and Development Company, which received the contract to build the Muskogee bingo hall, has employed 48 tribal members and 14 Indian sub-contractors. On another project, we hired 35 inspectors to assess the condition of selected mutual help homes. Because of the excellent work of inspectors and staff, we have received a $25 million five-year, comprehensive home rehabilitation grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

It should be noted that the prior administration never completed an assessment to apply for a grant, therefore many people were without a means to maintain their homes. When we recognized the situation, the staff and I saw it

please see CHIEF..., page 15

Letters to the editor

Tecumseh man concerned with justice

Editor:

I realize this letter is somewhat late, but if at all possible, I'm hoping you will be able to find room for this.

We feel that our 15-year-old son is being held unjustly for first-degree murder. As the parents of this young boy, we feel he is being held simply because he is Indian. Reliable sources have told us that the county district attorney would like to see him get the electric chair. The reason — no one from Seminole County ever has been convicted and received the death penalty.

At this point in the court system, we feel we are not getting the legal representation we are entitled to. Our court appointed lawyer cannot or will not put full effort into the case.

We have taken this same written letter to the local newspaper. Our hope now is to get the district attorney, judge, and the appointed lawyer to believe our son, Robert. We know our son did not do what they are accusing him of.

Robert is one-half Creek and one-half Seminole. I am Seminole-Creek. His stepmother is full-blood Creek.

Charles Mitchell, Tecumseh

Editor's note: *The Muscogee Nation News* report of this case begins on page 3.

Okmulgee representative explains vote

Editor:

I am writing this letter to apologize to low-paid Creek Nation employees.

I want all of you to know how hard I fought for the low-paid employees. The Creek Nation has people with salaries of $40,000 annually, expecting a 9.8 percent pay increase for fiscal year 1993. Low pay scale employees — those making between $12,000 to $15,000 thousand a year — are going to receive just a three percent increase. I keep asking, is this fair?

If it were not for the low-paid employees, there would be no need for top management employees. So, as a representative of all of the people, I voted against the fiscasl year 1993 comprehensive budget. But, only one vote could not stop the budget being adopted.

All I can say is, I will keep trying for my people. Thank you.

Charlie Litsey, Okmulgee

Editor's note: Litsey is a two-term Okmulgee District representative to the National Council.

New Muskogee representative says thanks

Editor:

I want to take time and thank the Creek citizens of the Muskogee District (and the absentee voters outside the district) for their support. Many thanks to each of you who supported me in this election. I will do my best to serve you.

Charlie Coker, Haskell

Editor's note: Coker won a special election to complete the term of former Muskogee District representative Harley Little. He was administered the oath of office at the October National Council regular session.

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a traceable address for confirmation. Responsible letters will be printed as space permits. The Muscogee Nation News reserves the right to edit for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, is a monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Offices are one mile north of Okmulgee, Okla., in the tribal capitol complex. *The Muscogee Nation News* is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News,* unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements of *The Muscogee Nation News,* guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News,* its advisors, or the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address.

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed free to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. For all others, the subscription rate is $12 per year. Change of address corrections are requested. Additional copies are available for 25 cents apiece.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed bulk rate from Okmulgee, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Communications department
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Communications department
Editor: Jim Wolfe
Associate editor: Stephanie Berryhill
Audio-visual specialist: Gerald Wofford
Administrative assistant: Anita Freeman
Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal leaders
Principal Chief: Bill Fife
Second Chief: Shelly Crow
National Council Speaker: Clarence Cloud
N.C. Second Speaker: Jerry Wilson
The Muscogee Nation News radio network
Aired weekly as a public service on these radio stations (times subject to change at the station's discretion):
KOKL-Okmulgee, am 1240, Thursday, 12:40 p.m.
KCES-Eufaula, fm 102.3, Friday, 8 a.m., Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
KRAF-Holdenville, 1370, Saturday, 3 p.m.
KMMY-Muskogee, fm 97.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Wagoner, fm 102.1, Sunday, 8 a.m.
KTRT-Tulsa, am 1270, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KDLB-Henryetta, am 1590, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
KVAZ-Henryetta, fm 91.5, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
KTLQ-Tahlequah, am 1350, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
KNGX-Claremore, fm 91.3, Sunday, 3 p.m.
KGFF-Shawnee, am 1450, Saturday, 6:20 a.m.
KADA-Ada, am 1230, Sunday, 11:15 a.m.
KUSH-Cushing, am 1600, Saturday, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Awarded for general excellence by the Native American Journalists Association

Tribal affairs briefs

Creek festival committee receives National Council approval

OKMULGEE — The 1993 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival and Rodeo Committee was approved by the National Council at a Nov. 12 special session.

The committee will be chaired by Shelly Crow, second chief, and includes: Okema Randall, Tulsa District representative; Sherry Baker, Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic director; Pearl Thomas, tribal nutrition program manager; Sonny O'Hern, gaming operations authority board chair; Henry Harjo, home improvement program manager; Barton Williams, lighthorse administration chief; and Jimmy Gibson, Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency superintendent.

The legislated tribal holiday will be June 19 through 21, with most events staged at the tribal omniplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

Creek Nation, Toyota officials exchange gifts

photo by Mike Neville, OSU-Okmulgee

Crow, Fife, and Gieszl at the Toyota showcase.

OKMULGEE -- The executive vice-president of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A , Inc. recently presented principal chief Bill Fife and second chief Shelly Crow a samurai war helmet. Toyota vice-president Yale Gieszl was present at a recent Toyota Technical Education Network Showcase held at the Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee campus. The tribe's top elected officials gave the Toyota representatives a framed Jerome Tiger print, a beaded fan, and a book of Muscogee history.

Charges dropped; no jury trial yet for tribal court

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General Office has declined to prosecute a case that was expected to be the first jury trial in tribal court in modern times.

District court judge Patrick Moore said charges against Frank Cantrell were dismissed because of conflicting reports.

A jury was expected to be convened for the case,. but will be unnecessary, Moore said.

Adult certification sought for Creek youth accused of first-degree murder

stories by Stephanie Berryhill and Jim Wolfe

WEWOKA — The Seminole County district attorney will continue his efforts to have a Creek-Seminole youth certified as an adult and prosecute him for first-degree murder.

Mitchell

District Attorney William Peterson said he will appeal Judge Lee Stillwell's decision allowing 15-year-old Robert Mitchell to be tried as a juvenile.

Mitchell is accused of murdering 90-year-old Myrtle McGehee, a neighbor, Sept. 4 or 5.

"At this point, I'm going to appeal the decision to the [state] court of criminal appeals," Peterson said.

Mitchell's court-appointed attorney, Robert Pyron, said the state's own psychologist "gave testimony that [Mitchell] is amenable to treatment within the system."

"Apparently, [officials believe] all of the problems the juvenile has are treatable," said Pyron, a Seminole County attorney.

please see JUVENILE..., page 15

Family, friends believe Mitchell innocent

A fundraising rally and food sale for the legal defense of Robert Mitchell will be held Dec. 5 at the Jimmy Austin Community Center, Seminole beginning at 10 a.m. Contributions can be made to Robert Mitchell's defense fund account at BancFirst, Seminole.

Fifteen-year-old Robert Mitchell lived next door to Myrtle McGehee all his life.

He looked in on the elder woman when she was sick and grew up playing with her grandchildren.

Now the Creek-Seminole boy is the primary suspect in her murder.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation believes the 90-year-old woman was stabbed to death sometime between the evening and early morning hours of Sept. 4 and 5.

Family contends youth is innocent

Lottie Mitchell took her grandson into her Little community home when he was 9 months old. She finds it impossible to believe Robert murdered a woman he liked so well.

Mitchell

"She always gave him candy, or [an] orange, or apple. He liked her; he always checked on her."

When Robert wanted to earn spending money, McGehee let him rake her yard or pick up trash. He often retrieved her newspaper and changed her light bulbs, said his father, Charles Mitchell.

A lightbulb left on past McGehee's bedtime was what alerted Robert of her demise,

please see INNOCENT...., page 15

Tribe to begin home heating assistance program for elders in December

OKMULGEE — Creek Nation community services will be assisting eligible tribal members with winter heating costs. The community services division will provide $100 to be applied to home heating costs for those who qualify.

To qualify, tribal members must be over age 55 and reside within Creek Nation boundaries. Awards will be limited to one per household.

Consumers of natural gas and electricity should provide bill statements; assistance will be paid directly to gas or electric companies. Wood or propane users' assistance will be paid directly to vendors upon delivery.

Applicants may have someone apply on their behalf with a signed authorization statement. The statement must be provided at the respective time, date, and application site.

The following are the dates and times for each district.

- **Hughes** — Holdenville Indian Community Center: 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 1, 416 E. Poplar
- **Muskogee** — Muskogee Indian Community Center: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 1, 111 S. Virginia
- **Okfuskee** — Okemah Indian Community Center: 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 2, two blocks south of Interstate 40 on state highway 27
- **Okmulgee** — Okmulgee Indian Community Center: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 2, one-fourth of a mile east of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56
- **McIntosh** — Eufaula Indian Community Center: 9 to noon, Dec. 3, 806 W. Forest Ave.
- **Creek** — Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 3, 1125 E. Cleveland
- **Tulsa** — Native American Coalition Center: 9 a.m. to noon, Dec. 4, 1740 W. 41st St., Tulsa
- **Wagoner** — Koweta Indian Community Center: 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 4, one-fourth of a mile east of Ben Lumpkin Road on 141st St. North.

Creek communities make preparations for holiday season

by Stephanie Berryhill

Dustin community receives certificate of charter

• Dustin Indian Community recently received its certificate of charter. Community organization manger Steve Landsberry presented chair Tim Fife with the charter on Oct. 13.

Tribal chief Bill Fife approved the community constitution and by-laws recently. Chief Fife commended the efforts of officers who were involved in the development of the constitution, said secretary Robin Fife. The officers are: Fife; Lisa Smith, vice-chairperson; Ms. Fife; Nellie Roberts, treasurer; and Mina Roberts, parliamentarian.

Ms. Fife said the community would like to thank the following for their support and assistance: Chief Fife; Landsberry; National Council speaker Jerry Wilson; Hughes District council representatives Charles Franks, Darrell Coachman, and Dwayne Lowe.

• The community is taking applications for membership. All applicants must meet the following requirements:

— possess Creek tribal enrollment card;
— tribal voters' registration card; and
— certificate degree of Indian blood card.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and reside within Dustin Indian Community boundaries.

Community meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. It meets in the Dustin Public Schools Science Room.

Kellyville holds elects community officers

• Kellyville Indian Community elected officers during its Nov. 2 regular meeting.

Re-elected were: Delbert Dunn, chair; and Wilma Dunn, treasurer. New officers are: Newman Littlebear, vice-chair; Shirley Brown, secretary; and Christine Reeder, reporter. Elected to the community's planning committee were: Sherry Garrett; Linda Buckley; and Lou Watashe White.

• Community members recently attended a Bristow Indian Community dinner. The dinner was held to honor the two communities' elders. The community presented elder member James Watashe, 87, with a $50 cash gift. Daisy Harris, 92, received a $100 cash gift also.

Dewar takes trip, discontinues monthly bingo

• Twelve Dewar Indian Community members recently took an overnight trip to Eureka Springs, Ark.

While there, the members toured the city and shopped for souvenirs, said secretary Eliza Hicks. Among sites they visited were the Christ of the Ozarks statue and an old, Hungarian Catholic church. The highlight of the trip was attending "The Passion Play," said Hicks.

The play portrays the events leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Hicks said the members enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to their next excursion.

• The community has discontinued its monthly bingo games. The games are tentatively scheduled to resume in March.

Checotah honors veterans, holding classes

• The community held a Veterans Day program at the community center on Nov. 11. Twenty-eight living and deceased community veterans were honored and memorialized with the hanging of a name-engraved plaque in the center.

• Farrell Kaaihue, community bingo hall manager, resigned to assume a position with the tribe's Muskogee bingo facility. The board appointed Pat Parent acting manager, said community reporter Cheryl Bear.

• The community's Mvskoke language class began with an enrollment of 17 people. Millie Colbert of Eufaula, is the class instructor.

Okmulgee begins language class, swears-in officers

• Okmulgee Indian Community held the first of an eight-week Mvskoke language class Nov. 10.

The classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday through Dec. 29. The class instructor is Pauline Pakoska Billy of Schulter.

• The community swore-in its officers and held its Thanksgiving dinner during the November regular meeting. Eighty people were in attendance.

• The community Christmas dinner and regular meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Dec. 14. The community center is located one- fourth of a mile east of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56.

Muskogee Indian Community elects officers

• Muskogee Indian Community elected officers at its November regular meeting.

Re-elected were: Melissa Napier, treasurer; and Rev. Lee Chupco, chaplain. The new officers are: Rita Tiger, chair; Sally King, vice-chair; Phyllis Wallace, secretary; and John Tiger, sergeant at arms. Their offices will not be in effect until January.

Yardeka observes Thanksgiving dinner and bingo

• Yardeka Indian Community held its potluck Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 21.

A grocery bingo and a birthday party for community members observing november birthdays followed.

Holdenville schedules Christmas dinner

• Holdenville Indian Community has slated a Dec. 5 Christmas dinner and program.

The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with games and entertainment following. The center is located at 416 E. Poplar.

Eufaula elects officers, holds annual contest

• Eufaula Indian Community elected officers during its September regular meeting.

Re-elected were: Susie Deere, vice-chair; Jena Loma, secretary; Millie Colbert, treasurer; and Fran Lewis, board member.

Newly-elected were: Ken Tiger, chair; Judith Pickering, board member; and Bunny Hill, board member.

• Community youth are vying for the Eufaula Indian Community Little Miss and Little Brave contest. Contestants for little miss are: Ada Baldridge, 10; Sammie Jo Marshall, 8; and Melissa Rainwater, 9. The only contestant for little brave is Derrick Marshall, 7.

The contestants compete by distributing cans to local merchants and collecting a penny per vote. The contestant collecting the most votes is the winner. Proceeds from the contest will be deposited in the community activity account. The cans have been in local businesses since Nov. 2 and will be collected Nov. 27, said activity coordinator Jerry Francis. The new little miss and brave will make their first official representation of the community in the City of Eufaula Christmas parade Dec. 5.

Koweta Indian Community elects officers

• Koweta Indian Community recently elected officers. Re-elected were: Barbara Gillespie, chair; and Eloweda Tiger, treasurer. New officers are: JoAnn Deere, vice-chair; Johnna Gouge, secretary; and Joe McHenry, sergeant at arms.

Glenpool slates arts and crafts fair, reunion

• Glenpool Creek Indian Community is holding an Indian arts and crafts fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 5 at its activity building.

The booth fee is $15 and 20 percent of artisans' profits. All artisans may exhibit, but the community requests wares be of Native American influence. Concessions will be provided by the community.

• The community is holding a reunion and potluck dinner for Tulsa Indian Youth Council past and present members. The reunion is scheduled from 6:30 to 9

please see COMMUNITIES..., page 5

Dewar community members attend play

Several Dewar Indian Community members attended "The Passion Play "at Eureka Springs, Ark. recently. Those pictured are: front row - Billie Proctor; and Joe Hicks; second row - Laurie Hicks; Minnie Proctor; Eliza Hicks; Ella Hicks; and Jane Evans; back row - Houston Hicks; Wilcie Harjo; Bill Proctor; and George Hicks.

Spirit of Christmas pervades area Creek Indian communities

continued from page 4

p.m., Nov. 27. The community center is located one block north of U.S. Highway 75 and 141st St.

• Two community officers resigned from their positions during the October regular meeting. Treasurer Billie Childers resigned for personal reasons; sergeant at arms Don Cahwee, a Tulsa District Council representative, resigned because of his obligations to the Council. Donna Rhodes was elected treasurer during the October regular meeting. James Proctor was elected sergeant at arms at the community's November meeting.

• The community celebrated member Woodrow Haney's 73rd birthday with ice cream and cake on Oct. 21.

• The community is accepting donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets it will be providing for 24 needy Indian families. Dry and canned goods are being accepted. Rhodes is chair of the community's Christmas program committee.

Okfuskee has holiday and birthday celebrations

• Okfuskee Indian Community has scheduled a bingo game at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 19. Free gifts will be given away throughout the night, said community reporter Sharon Hicks.

• Christmas dinner will be served at 4 p.m, Dec. 25. A Christmas program will be held following the dinner. Gifts and candy will be passed out by Santa Claus, Hicks said. The community center is located two and one-half miles east of IXL community on state highway 48.

• Community members interested in obtaining fire wood may call 623-1963 for more details. Elders will have priority in the dispursement of wood.

• Community members with November birthdays are: Amanda Johnson; and Jennifer Harjochee. Members also wished community friend Terry McElyea, a happy Nov. 13 birthday, said Hicks.

• Vice-chair Simmer Hicks and spouse, Sharon, celebrated their 16th anniversary Nov. 18.

• Members with December birthdays are: Lorene Hicks; Ernest McPerryman; and Shelly Hicks.

Okemah offers language classes for members

• John Riley began teaching Mvskoke language classes at Okemah Indian Community Center Nov. 17.

The classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday for eight weeks. Community members with a certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB) card may take the class free of charge.

• The community is accepting applications for child care services through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration. The community is located two blocks south of Interstate 40 and state highway 27.

• Board member Ruth Fobb resigned her position during the Nov. 2 regular meeting. Fobb resigned for personal reasons. Jimmy Deere was appointed to fill the position. Mae Jackson and Lucy Tiger were also appointed to fill the offices of secretary and treasurer which were previously vacated. All three will retain the offices until its new officers, elected Nov. 16, become effective Jan. 1.

• Community members wanting free wallpaper may inquire at the community center.

• All community employees have received cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, said program coordinator Nancy Duncan.

Bristow to participate in local Christmas parade

• Bristow Indian Community members are making plans to enter the City of Bristow's annual Christmas parade. The theme of the 7 p.m., Dec. 3 parade is "Route 66." Considering the community's repeat winning history, it is a contender to win this year's parade, said chair Judy Riley.

• Sixteen elders received cash gifts at the community's dinner to honor its elders. The two eldest community members in attendance, Winey Harjo and Annie Allen Coppinger, both received gifts of $100. Both women are 96 years old. Around 75 members attended the dinner, said Riley. Kellyville Indian Community members, including two elders, also attended the dinner.

• Sixty adults and children attended the community's Halloween carnival, said Riley.

Wetumka raising funds for Christmas

• Wetumka Indian Community is holding a fundraising grocery bingo game for its Christmas activities. A Dec. 5 game will be held at 6:30 p.m. Game packs of 20 will be sold for $5.

Tulsa sets holiday dinner date

• Tulsa Creek Indian Community's Christmas dinner will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 19 at the East Center Young Women's Christian Association. The community is providing the turkey and ham and requests members bring a covered dish. A children's Christmas program will be held following the dinner. Santa Claus will also be present. The YWCA is located at 8145 E. 17th.

• A representative from the tribal social services department will be assisting community members in obtaining services. A department representative will be at the community office on the third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

• Oklahoma Indian Legal Services attorney Ange Hamilton will be assisting members with legal needs. Hamilton will be at the office from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. The community office is located at 6363 E. 31st, Suite 105. For more information on activities or services, call the community office at 832-7062.

Sapulpa to hold Christmas dinner and program

• Sapulpa Indian Community is holding its Christmas dinner from noon to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 19. The potluck dinner will be held at the community office, located at 1030 E. Taft, Suite 110 in the Creek Hills Mall.

• The community's Halloween party was successful, said community secretary-treasurer Phyllis Warrington. The dance was attended by 100 people, she said. Costume contest winners in the adult, young adult, and youth catagories were: Adeline West of Sapulpa; Norma Cook of Sapulpa; and Brandy Cook of Sapulpa. Al and Betty Pulver of Sapulpa were the contest winners. Dance contest judges were Wade Bucktrot Jr. and Johnson Proctor, both of Bristow. Amos McNac of Bristow, was the dance disc jockey.

• The community is still seeking a Mvskoke language instructor. For details, call the community office at 227-3234.

Beggs chair recovering from colon surgery

• Beggs Indian Community chair Verna Barnes is recovering from a colon operation. Barnes is recuperating at home; the surgery was performed in October.

Lovin' spoonfuls

Okmulgee Indian Community officers Vicki Watashe, Etta Checotah, and member Cogee Keith dish out food at the community's Thanksgiving dinner.

Lawmenders appointed in Eufaula community

by Stephanie Berryhill

OKMULGEE — Based on smokeshop tax revenues paid into the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Eufaula Indian Community is one of the tribes most successful communities.

Principal chief Bill Fife responded to allegations its board members and enterprise managers have mismanaged community assets — leading to the appointment of lawmenders who are monitoring the community's actions.

Tribal district court judge Patrick Moore appointed McIntosh District representative Tommy Newton and Creek Nation Housing Authority chair Kenneth Childrers joint lawmenders Oct. 30.

The positions authorize Newton and Childers, also a gaming operations authority board member, to oversee the operation of the community's bingo hall, smokeshop, and meetings. The two lawmenders will be monitoring community functions to ensure accounting procedures and financial controls are adhered to.

The community ranked number one in smokeshop tax revenues paid into the tribe during fiscal year 1992. It paid over $100,000 into the tribe - more than 29 other operational smokeshops licensed by Creek Nation, according to the tribal public gaming office's Fiscal Year 1992, fourth quarter report. Its bingo hall contributed three percent of over $3.2 million revenue paid into the tribe by Creek Nation bingo halls in FY 1992, deputy commissioner William Brady said.

please see EUFAULA..., page 12

Education briefs

Creek Nation hosts Indian education program and seminar

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted an Indian education seminar Nov. 23 at the independent agencies building (mound) auditorium.

The seminar featured: Dr. John Campbell, president, Oklahoma State University; Dr. Robert Klabenes, provost, OSU-Okmulgee; Bill Fife, principal chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and a workshop on the Johnson-O'Malley program.

The three leaders discussed cultural education and the need for cooperation between tribes and higher education institutions. It marked the first time that a major university president visited the tribal complex.

After the speeches, the tribe's JOM staff presented information regarding policies and procedures for the program.

Creek Nation adult education program offers GED classes

OKMULGEE — Classes are available from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Adult Education Program for persons wanting to earn their general equivalency diploma (GED).

Classes are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the independent agencies (mound) building, room 301, at the tribal capitol complex in Okmulgee. Computer training and assistance are available as well as tutoring and instruction on a one-to-one basis.

Participants must be at least 17 years of age, possess a certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB), and reside within the Creek Nation boundaries. The testing fee is provided by the program.

The program is currently distributing a survey to determine the adult education needs of Creek communities. A joint effort between the Creek Nation and Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee is in the planning stages which would make college credit courses available in the various communities with a minimum of 10 participants.

Communities interested in having Creek language classes must submit an application to the adult education department. Those communities not served during fiscal year 1992 will be given priority.

For further information, contact the adult education office at (918) 756-8700 exts. 315 or 395.

Taryole named manager of Johnson-O'Malley program

OKMULGEE — Ken Taryole of Okmulgee, has been named manager of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Johnson-O'Malley Indian Education Program.

The tribe contracted the JOM program from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for fiscal year 1993. The office certified eligibility for approximately 8,372 Indian students served through the 43 JOM school projects located within the Creek Nation boundaries.

Taryole is a 1964 graduate of Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Junior College) Lawrence, Kan. He served two years active duty in the U.S. Army with a 13-month tour in the Republic of South Korea and received an honorable discharge. Taryole has administrative, financial, and contract management experience.

He was formerly with the BIA's office of Indian education programs. He and his wife, Darlene, have twin daughters, Jennifer and Valerie, who are students at Okmulgee Middle School. He is the son of Van and Sophie Taryole of the Nuyaka Indian community.

Creek Nation employment training programs provide variety of services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Administration provides several programs for vocational and technical education training.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and the adult vocational training (AVT) programs provide assistance with full-time vocational technical education and training courses at approved institutions which must be completed within 24 months.

The programs are designed to provide assistance to eligible participants to gain the knowledge and skills needed to perform a specific job or variety of jobs.

Information sheets listing the requirements for each program are available from the ETA department upon request.

Deadlines are set for each approved school approximately two weeks before the date of the first class. Specific dates are posted at the ETA office and are also provided on information sheets.

Requirements for the JTPA program are:

— certificate degree of Indian blood (CDIB) card or tribal document from any federally recognized Indian tribe;

— must be at least 18 years old, with the exception of any high school graduate 17 years old;

— must reside within the Creek Nation jurisdictional boundaries; and

— must meet income guidelines as established by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Requirements for the AVT program are:

— must be at least one-quarter degree Indian and have CDIB or tribal document from any federally-recognized Indian tribe;

— must be at least 18 years old, except for high school graduates 17 years old;

— must reside within the Creek Nation jurisdictional boundaries; and

— must demonstrate financial need; and

— must attend training site and course of study approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and ETA manager.

Another program administered by the tribe's ETA department is the tribal funds grant program. The funds grant will award all eligible enrolled citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation attending an approved vocational school, with no minimum blood quantum required. The school will determine the full-time or part-time status of the student.

For courses that are nine months or less and full-time, the student is eligible to receive $200 and part-time students are elgibible to receive $100. Full-time students in courses extending nine months are eligible to receive up to $400 per academic year. Part-time students are eligible to receive $200 per academic year. Funds will be awarded no more than eight times.

Students must maintain a 2.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0) to remain eligible for the program.

It is the student's responsibility to furnish the ETA department with grades for the previous term for continuation of the award.

After verification of the student's enrollment status, awards will be sent to the student's home address. The awards may be used to supplement those received from another source. All funding awards are based on the availability of grant monies.

Applications for assistance at OSU-Okmulgee available

OKMULGEE — The tribal employment and training administration is accepting applications for the spring trimester at Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee.

Applications will be accepted for the Job Training Partnership Act and adult vocational training programs only. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 16.

The administration office is in the Creek Nation tribal capitol complex building, located at U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56 in Okmulgee.

Graduates receive assistance from JTPA tribal program

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Job Training Partnership Act program recognizes recent graduates who completed their training with program assistance.

Sherri Aldridge of Checotah, graduated with a certificate as a *licensed practical nurse and is employed* at Bono's Nursing Home, Warner.

Teresa Davis of Bristow, graduated with a certificate as a medical assistant, from Bryant Institute, and is employed at Briarwood Clinic, Tulsa.

Ruth Cole of Wagoner, graduated with a certificate as a truck driver from Central Vo-tech, Drumright, and is with a Missouri company.

Tina Frank of Okemah, graduated with an associate's degree in medical secretary skills from Oklahoma State University-Okmulgee, and is employed at the Okemah Indian Health Center.

Evelyn Maxey of Broken Arrow, graduated with an associate's degree in computer information systems from OSU-Okmulgee and is employed with Purolator, Tulsa.

Martana Dill of Checotah, graduated with a license as a basic operator from Virgil's Beauty College, Muskogee, and has opened her own business in the Checotah area.

Kevin Weimer and Jackie Francis both of Henryetta, received associates' degrees in computer information systems from OSU-Okmulgee and have begun their own business, Protech Computer Services in Okmulgee.

Andrew Lerblance of Checotah, graduated with an associate's degree in electrical engineering technology and is now employed with Sears in Muskogee.

Wetumka student nominated for national leaders' conference

DUSTIN — Wetumka High School student Chance Smith has been nominated to become a congressional scholar representing Oklahoma at the National Young Leaders Conference March 16 through 21 in Washington D.C.

As a congressional scholar, Smith will be honored as one of the outstanding young leaders of tomorrow and will be joined by students from across the United States.

While in Washington, Smith will meet government officials, senators, and representatives, as well as observe the house of representatives and a White House briefing.

Smith is the son of Jack and Pauline Smith of Dustin and Lahoma Jack of Wetumka. Paternal grandmother is Ruby Smith.

Government briefs

Coker wins special election

MUSKOGEE — Charlie Coker defeated Russell Waldon in an Oct. 24 special election to fill a Muskogee District vacancy on the National Council.

Coker of Haskell, received 95 votes to Waldon's 23, to complete the term of former district representative Harley Little. Little resigned to become the tribe's community services director.

Coker said he is qualified to serve.

"My background renders me qualified to serve," Coker said. "One of my primary concerns will be to study all legislative matters thoroughly and then cast my vote to benefit Muskogee District as well as other Creeks in viable ways."

Coker was administered the oath of office at the Council's Oct. 31 regular session.

Harjo, Morgan in run-off

OKMULGEE — Jim B. Harjo and Emanuel Morgan will face each other in a Dec. 5 run-off election to fill an Okmulgee District vacancy on the National Council.

Harjo and Morgan bested a field of five to complete the term of George Almerigi. Almerigi resigned to become a tribal assistant attorney general.

Morgan received 95 votes and Harjo 94. Other candidates' vote totals are as follows: Bobby Williams, 79; Lahoma Hicks-Schultz, 76; and Darla Yochum, 76.

Polling places for the Dec. 5 election are:

• Dewar Indian Community Center, 402 Louella St.; and

• Creek Nation dining hall at the tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and Loop 56.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Council approves additional funding for tribal bingo project, land purchases

by Jim Wolfe

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) National Council approved several funding measures, including additional funding for the Muskogee bingo hall construction, at its October session in Okmulgee.

The 31-member tribal legislature appropriated $129,975 from the economic development fund account for the project. The additional funds are to be used for expenses that were not anticipated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation development and construction company in its original bid.

More than $100,000 of the additional funding will be used for the purchase of kitchen equipment and fly ash for the subsoil.

Other additional expenses include installation of a sprinkler system, a bulldozer and operator, a Muskogee city sanitation business assessment, and a water meter.

Gaming operations authority board chair Sonny O'Hern told the Council that the project was 70 percent complete. O'Hern told the Council he expects the hall to open Dec. 12.

Okmulgee District Representative Charlie Litsey was the lone dissenting vote. Reps. Wilson Bear, Okema Randall, and Mose Cahwee abstained.

In other business, the Council:

— authorized the purchase of 2,745 acres of land near the Twin Hills community in north Okmulgee County. The land is expected to cost more than $800,000. **Voting against the bill were: Bear; Sandy McIntosh; Tommy Newton; Helen Chupco; Mae Jackson; Wynema Roberts; Litsey; Don Cahwee; Irene Cleghorn; Randall; Jerry Wilson; and Charlie Coker. Absent: Clyde Johnson; George Tiger; and Alexander Thomas;**

— amended an earlier bill (NCA 89-130) that authorized the expenditure of bingo revenue funds for the burial assistance program. **Voting against the bill were: McIntosh; Litsey; and Cleghorn. Jackson abstained;**

— appropriated $3,000 to defer medical expenses of Bronson Harjo. **Unanimous approval;**

— amended NCA 92-74 which created the medical travel fund with $10,000 and identified its funding source. **Unanimous approval;**

— approved an attorney contract with Hesket and Hesket law firm to provide legal services to the tribe's hospital and clinics advisory board. **Voting against the bill was: Litsey;**

— appropriated $25,000 to match Yeager community for the community's block grant. The money will be held for up to six months until the heavily Creek-populated community receives word on its grant funding application. The town is attempting to build a community center and fire station. **Unanimous approval;**

— authorized the principal chief to contract with the American Financial Services financial group for assistance in acquiring a commercial bank for the tribe and appropriated $25,000 from the fiscal year 1993 economic development fund. **Voting against the bill were: Clarence Cloud; Earl Wheeler; McIntosh; Newton, Roberts; Litsey; Cleghorn; and Randall;**

— authorized the principal chief to negotiate and execute a joint venture agreement with the Missis-

please see COUNCIL..., page 15

Chief says tribe to be proactive with new administration

by Jim Wolfe

OKMULGEE — Principal chief Bill Fife says he wants the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to be proactive and prepared to battle when president-elect Bill Clinton assumes the U.S. presidency.

Fife was one of several tribal leaders to endorse Clinton for president.

"We're going to try and be more proactive instead of reactive as to what our needs are," Fife said. "We are going to be more upfront about what we're trying to do as a tribe."

Fife said his administration sent congratulations to the president-elect. Also, Fife will send a position paper from the tribe for Clinton to consider.

"We sent a letter congratulating him on winning his political race," Fife said. "We emphasized that we support his administration and are eager to work with him for the betterment of our people."

The tribe's other significant political activity was with state questions 649 and 650. Both were related to bond issues and funding for a variety of state projects. Part of the financing for the bonds is to come from a tax on wholesale bingo suppliers.

"Everyone we talked to said 'it wouldn't affect tribes,'" Fife said. "However, we are going to have a wait-and-see-attitude before we make any judgements on how the questions are going to affect us."

Fife said the state would probably become more aggressive against tribes, particularly the Creek Nation, after the first of the year.

A state deadline for tribes to sign compacts with the state on tobacco payments in lieu of taxes for tobacco sales to non-Indians, is Dec. 31. The Creek Nation has been outspoken in its opposition to any state intrusion in tribal matters.

Fife believes this is one reason the state will bring the battle to court.

"The (Oklahoma) Supreme Court is coming after us," Fife said. "After the first of the year, we're going to be in a fight with the state."

Second speaker wants aggressive campaign

OKMULGEE — There's an urgency in Jerry Wilson's voice when he speaks of the work to do before the next U.S. Congress is seated.

The National Council's second speaker wants the tribe to develop a congressional message that will reflect the Muscogee (Creek) Nation position on a variety of issues.

"It's time we told Congress and the (president-elect) what our agenda is," Wilson said.

"For too long, this tribe has set back and reacted to federal policy. I believe we should be the ones telling the federal government what we need."

In a five-page memorandum to principal chief Bill Fife, Council representatives, and administrative staff, Wilson urged the tribe to develop a number of recommendations that could be submitted to Congress.

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

Mvskoke veterans Joe Smith, James Wesley, and Jorene Anderson Coker recall their roles in the "Great War."

stories by Stephanie Berryhill

Muscogee war hero inducted into Broken Arrow Hall of Fame

Movement to erect statue begins

The Broken Arrow community paid tribute to a World War II hero, inducting him in the community's hall of fame.

Col. Ernest Childers was inducted into the Broken Arrow Hall of Fame in a special ceremony Nov. 13.

Childers, Creek, is the first Indian to ever receive the Medal of Honor, given by Congress. His exploits are the stuff of legend.

In 1943, as a member of the accomplished 45th Infantry Division, Childers scaled the side of a hill with a broken instep, and destroyed a German machine gun post singlehandedly.

For his act of gallantry, Childers was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In addition to his hall of fame induction, and a middle school named for him, the city is raising funds to have a statue of his likeness erected. For more information, contact the Broken Arrow Rotary Club.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Bill Fife said "Col. Childers is a hero in the eyes of all young Indians. He has made significant contributions in keeping our country free."

Seek, Stri

The roots of World War
James Wesley lie in rural Okema
not know each other until they fought
As members of the 603rd Tank Destroyer B
reconaissance troop scouts. Although it seems
battlefield, it wasn't entirely unusual for the era b
"It wasn't like today, because I don't think none of
vividly Dec. 7, 1941 — the day Pearl Harbor was bombed.
Roley Canard came to talk to the young people about the inva
would draft the young men, and told them to obey the governmen
At the same time, 22-year-old Joe was drafted. At Camp Roberts,
Okemah, Barney Tiger, Andrew Hill, and Joe Francis, all of Eufaula - a
of camaraderie among the Creeks. Both James and Joe remember particu
sit at the dinner table, speak Spanish, and refuse to pass the salt and pepp
started talking Creek, and quit passing the shakers to them, James said. Jo
songs. "Pretty soon, the Mexicans came out and started singing their songs to
fought in different units. Joe and James were the only two that stayed together
not specify Indians as Native American, but caucasian, James said. They never ex
Indians. The only thing said about us was [that] we were good scouts," he sai
and determine the strengths of the German army's panzer division. Their driver was
was replaced after hopping out of the jeep and leaving Joe at the machine gun near a
Whereas U.S. tank destroyers were equipped with 50 mm machine guns capable of fir
per minute, James said. A U.S. tank destroyer was equipped with a 76 mm weapon, bu
was inferior to that of the Germans, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica. Despite
knew how to fight; they knew all the tricks. We couldn't knock out their tanks," Jam
of iron armor, the American men developed an innovative approach to penetrate it
knock out their tanks. We had to shoot at them from the sides. Our intention was
switched-off on duties of machine gunner and assistant machine gunner. James wa
put it back together blindfolded." Both received battle stars for the campaigns of
The battle at Bastogne was most memorable to them. U.S. forces surrounded the
1944. Joe remembers being miserably cold. Not having adequate clothing for the
pairs of socks, two shirts, three pairs of pants, and one jacket. He said they sl
for Joe; to keep the jeep's 30 mm machine gun from icing over, he covered it
but Joe kept his blanket over his gun," James said. As Axis soldiers raped
James said American servicemen committed flagrant acts also. The soldie
Joe said. "But I didn't touch nothing like that," he added. James said
great risk. The Germans planted booby traps on their dead. Thei
explosion after entering a booby trapped German structure, J
Both reflect on their war experiences as seeming like a
It was almost like a dream, I guess because I was neve
it was like I was in a deep sleep and woke up," Jo
become an assertive person. "I could standup and
We talk about our experiences like we've c
part to protect," James said. Among meda
Star, although the medals never were
more important than a medal. My
why [we're

Smith

e, Destroy

— Super Sixth motto

veterans Joe Smith and
nd Wetumka, though they did
le by side in the European Theater.
alion, Sixth Armored Division, both were
nic that their relationship developed on the
use most people utilized horse teams for travel.
] went out of the county," James said. He recalls
was Salt Creek's Fourth Sunday and former Creek chief
n. Canard told the group about Pearl Harbor, said the army
ames said. In January 1942, 18-year-old James joined the army.
if., Joe, James, and Creeks Sandy Fish, Eugene Holahta, both of
et for the first time. Being away from home, there was a great sense
ly the closeness of the Hispanics also. James said the Hispanics would
shakers. The Creeks soon tired of them and got together at one table,
lso told of the time they got lonesome and started singing stompdance
' he laughed. The Creeks stuck together at camp, but were separated and
d of the group, remain the last two alive. At that time, enlistment forms did
ienced any form of racism, James said."Nobody ever said anything bad about
As scouts, they travelled ahead of U.S. tanks and tank destroyers to locate
lled on the first day of combat and replaced with a Hispanic driver, Joe said. He
rman blockade. "I thought next time I saw him, I'd shoot him myself," Joe said.
500 rounds per minute, German tank artillery almost doubled that at 900 rounds
German Tiger tanks surpassed them with 88 mm guns. The gunpower of U.S. tanks
equal arms, both believe the panzer division were incredible fighters. "Germans
said. Because the front of the Tiger Royale tanks were covered in a thick sheath
th ammunition. "It was so thick American bullets bounced off it. We couldn't
get behind them and shoot two to three times and back off," James said. Both
xperienced in setting-up the machine gun. "I learned how to take it apart and
dennes, Normandy, Bastogne, Central Europe, North France, and Rhineland.
nall southeast Belgium town during a German counteroffensive in December
utal winter weather, he was frostbitten. Joe said he made due wearing three
under the snow to keep from freezing. The snow was literally a blanket
th his blanket. "I had to take a blow torch to the turret because it froze,
d pillaged civilians and their possessions, so did some Allies. Joe and
often raided German villages and took possesions such as silverware,
S. soldiers took rings and watches from dead German soldiers at
asic training buddy, Francis, lost his eyesight because of an
said. Francis was not killed in war, but is now deceased.
amlike state. A lot of times, I forget I'm a veteran.
vounded," James said. "When I got off that ship,
dded. James said being in the war helped him
k to anyone - before, I was never that way.
e something - we were just doing our
Joe received is the U.S. Army Silver
gnificant to him."Our country's
ize was our country; that's
ee."

Wesley

Creek woman served in U.S. Navy WAVES

Jorene Anderson Coker hails from a background of determined, patriotic Mvskoke people. Being the great-grandaughter of charismatic Confederate soldier and Creek chief Samuel Checote, it was almost natural that she and three of her sibilings enlist in militiary service.

Dec. 8, 1941 is a day Jorene recalls vividly. She was a student at Haskell Institute when she heard President Franklin D. Roosevelt's declaration of war.

"The day after we heard President Roosevelt's annoucement of war — the next day — the boys were just leaving."

Atypical of young women of the era, Jorene enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January 1944. In 1942, Congress authorized the the women's Navy reserve. Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, WAVES, was an organizational distinction for women to serve during World War II. Jorene was one of 88,000 WAVES in a Navy of 3 million. In 1948, women were allowed to become a permanent part of the regular Navy and Navy Reserve, thus making the term WAVES obsolete.

She attributes her patriotism and youth as motives for her enlistment. "I guess being young and foolhardy, I thought it would be adventuresome and exciting — and it was that!"

Best friend Margie Williams (left) and Coker at Barber's Point.

One of the highlights of her service was being selected as a member of the singing platoons while at boot camp in the Bronx. She was one of 80 girls who performed at a war bond drive concert conducted by Leopold Stokowski, the founder of the American Symphony Orchestra.

During boot camp she also studied naval history and learned to march. She was stationed at: Cedar Falls, Iowa; Camp Wallace, Texas; Norfolk, Va; and Barber's Point, Hawaii.

Her duties consisted of office work and maintaining service personnel records.

One of her most memorable experiences was travelling to Oahu, Hawaii on a troop ship in May 1945. She had the opportunity to fly, but true to her nature, she took advantage of experiencing ship life. "We slept in hammocks and stood up while we ate. It was an experience I'll never forget."

Another highlight was when Jorene and her coworker, Jo, vied for the attention of budding, young movie star and serviceman Robert Stack. Stack, currently television host of the weekly crime series "Unsolved Mysteries," came into the staging center to cash a check.

"I just kind of elbowed her to the side. And boy — you talk about good looking — Jo and I couldn't get over that excitement all day long."

By the time she was discharged in 1946, she had reached the rank of yeoman first class. Today, Jorene is the post commander of American Legion White-Williams Post 10 in Okmulgee. "I would assume I am the only Indian who has served as [its] post commander."

She is an advocate for the rights of women veterans. Jorene is the secretary for the OK Mariners, one of two womens' navy units in the state. A primary purpose of the unit is responding to the needs of eight, ill servicewomen in the Talihena State Veterans Center. Jorene said it is only recently that female veterans have began receiving medical services once afforded to servicemen only. She attibutes this change to the fact that World War II and Korean War service-women are growing older, thus demanding more medical services.

"We don't have any hesitation in writing to our congressmen to register complaints."

Jorene will admit she isn't hesitant about voicing her opinions. She credits the Navy for giving her the experience and confidence that has enabled her to become an articulate, assertive woman. Before enlisting in the Navy, the full-blood Creek was a timid young woman. "I was really quite like the [stereotypical] Indian woman."

Leaving the security of her small hometown helped Jorene broaden her horizons.

"When I got out of the bounds of Preston, I realized you have to register comments, opinions, and complaints if you want to get anything done — and I've been doing it ever since."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation births

Karissa Malynn Berryhill

Berryhill

CLAREMORE — Karissa Malynn Berryhill was born Oct. 20 to Michael and Kara Berryhill of Beggs.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 and one-half inches long at birth.

Her maternal grandparents are Deanna and Wendell Crook of Beggs. Her great-grandparents are Roy and Eula Swanson and Lillie Crook, all of Beggs.

Her paternal grandparents are Jean Wacoche Berryhill of Eudora, Kan. and Janice and Thomas Berryhill Jr. of Duck Creek. Great-grandparents are Elizabeth Thompson Porter of Okmulgee and the late Benjamin Wacoche. Rev. Thomas and the late Blanche Pakoska Berryhill of Wilson Community are also great-grandparents.

Her Mvskoke name is *Pvkpvkoce*, given by her great-great aunt Pauline Pakoska Billy. She is the daughter of the Racoon Clan and Tuckabatchee Tribal Town.

Kyra Rain Barnett

Barnett

OKMULGEE — Kyra Rain Barnett was born July 9 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

Barnett weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Brandon and Keesa Barnett of Okmulgee. Her maternal grandparents are Peggy Maynahonah of Carnegie and Louis Maynahonah of Lawrence, Kan. Her paternal grandfather is Jackson Barnett of Shawnee.

Barnett is Creek, Cherokee, Pueblo, Kiowa, and Apache.

Mariah Danielle Brown

Brown

ADA — On July 9 Mariah Danielle Brown was born to Franklin and Lydia Brown of Liberty Mounds.

The baby was born at Carl Albert Indian Hospital and weighed 5 pounds, 13 and one-half ounces. She measured 19 inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are Sam Proctor of Tahlequah, and Pauline Starr of Okmulgee. Paternal great-grandparents are Felix and Florence Brown of Okmulgee. Her paternal great-grandmother is Nicey Wilson of Haskell.

Citizens' hog fry well attended

WILSON — Despite a rainstorm, over 200 people attended an Oct. 24 hog fry hosted by tribal citizens Barton and Rita Williams.

In addition to good food and fellowship, the highlight of the day was a volleyball game between the teams of principal chief Bill Fife and second chief Shelly Crow, Mrs. Williams said. Winning the game was Fife's team.

Mrs. Williams said she and her husband appreciate the efforts of the tribal natural resources staff for providing seating and all who cooked, brought food, and attended.

Tiger receives intertribal scholarship

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation recently awarded the Louie Leflore-Grant Foreman Scholarship to tribal citizen Brandy Tiger.

The tribe offered the scholarship on behalf of the Five Civilized Tribes higher education programs. The one-time $650 scholarship was awarded to Tiger because of her good academic standing, progress, and college leadership. Tiger competed with 22 other Creek students for the health professions scholarship.

Tiger is the daughter of Saundra Tiger, Muskogee. Her maternal grandparents are John and the late Susan Logan, Muskogee. Her paternal grandparents are Bill Tiger, Bixby and the late Billie Webster.

Tiger is a 1990 graduate of Oktaha High School and a former Creek Nation Rodeo Queen. She attends Bacone College in Muskogee.

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Principal chief Bill Fife presents Tiger with the LeFlore-Foreman intertribal scholarship.

Creek artists excel at area contests

Screechowl wins photography contest

SAPULPA — Travis Screechowl won first place honors in six categories and second place in four categories in photography at the 1992 Creek County Fair.

His outstanding photo series of people, outstanding photo series of active people, photo-news story, and two best individual photographs placed first. He also was the Eastman Kodak National Photo exhibit winner.

His telling a story photo series, two best individual photographs, and nature-landscape photo series placed second.

His postmark collection, heritage scrapbook, pencil fine art sketch, and advanced wood work entry were also blue ribbon winners.

Sceechowl's outstanding photo series of people and his postmark collection won first place premium awards at the 1992 Tulsa State Fair. His fine art pencil sketch placed third, his entry in advanced woodwork category placed fourth, and his best individual photo placed fourth. His outstanding photo series of people-doing-something placed 8th. There were 2,443 entries at this year's Tulsa State Fair therefore, only the top five winners in each category were exhibited during the state fair.

His postmark collection of Oklahoma towns is dedicated to the Year of the Indian. It now advances to the national level. Screechowl is the son of Ed and Janice Screechowl of Sapulpa.

Bear receives seventh highest bid

OKLAHOMA CITY — The artwork of Creek citizen Mike Bear received the seventh highest bid at the Oklahoma Institute of Indian Heritage's recent art auction.

Bear donated the artwork for the institute's fundraising auction. His acrylic painting, "Sneakup," portrays a traditional dancer. WKY radio station purchased the artwork for $425. It is on permanent display at the Oklahoma City station.

The institute auctioned a total of 41 pieces of artwork.

Creek artist works at tourist convention

SEATTLE — Creek Indian artist Ramona Mason of Tulsa, was a special guest at the National Tour Association convention in Seattle, in November.

During the convention, Mason painted American Indian symbols and designs upon an authentic, 6-foot handcrafted tipi canvas. The tipi was donated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and will be auctioned to raise funds for the NTA after Mason completes her work.

For her tipi project, Mason created a border signifying the sky and red earth. She incorporated symbols such as the medicine wheel — a circular design that signifies unity, the four seasons, wind, and stages of life.

Extensive research and documentation, including interviews with tribal elders and tipi makers, has given Mason expertise in authenticating her designs.

"Usually the design was the signature or address specific to the family living in it and was indicative of the tribe they belonged to," she said.

Mason's work has been shown at Philbrook and Gilcrease museums in Tulsa. She has painted murals in Lawton and Tulsa. Her latest project was a wall hanging for the University of Tulsa's Sharp Chapel.

Education briefs

Jacobs graduates with degree in anthropology; pursues master's

Jacobs

NORMAN — Johnnie Jacobs received a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. She is pursuing a master's degree in anthropology, with her emphasis in bio-archaeology.

Jacobs has worked as a lab assistant at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey for a year and will continue to work there.

She is also a graduate assistant working on a research project for a university of Oklahoma anthropology professor.

Jacobs is the daughter of Carol and the late John P. Jacobs of Holdenville.

Area, state notices

Seniors announce gift shop closing

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Citizens Gift Shop will close Dec. 31.

Organization secretary Mary Thames issued the statement from the organization after its Oct. 28 meeting.

"The senior citizens voted overwhelmingly to close the senior citizens gift shop," Thames said.

No official word was given for the closing date.

Video series now available

OKMULGEE — Video programs about various Creek topics are available in a two-volume set. The 11 programs cover history, culture, religion, and post 1979 constitution history. Program titles are:

- Volume 1 — Este Mvskoke; The Praise of Our Fathers: Spiritual Traditions of the Muscogee People; Folklore of the Mvskoke People; and Turtle Shells;
- Volume 2 — 1,000 Years of Mvskoke Art; Tokon'he-Crooked Sticks; Green Corn Festival; Stickball: Little Brother of War; Alex Posey; Native American Games; and Creek Nation on the Move.

A single volume is $12.50. The set of two VHS tapes is $25. Make checks or purchase orders payable to: Creek Nation communications, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Also, an 18-minute video of the 1992 inauguration of principal chief Bill Fife is available for $10.

For more information, contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 756-8700, ext. 300.

Indian business services available

TULSA — The Oklahoma Indian Business Development Center is providing services to all existing and prospective Indian-owned businesses in Oklahoma.

"We can assist in preparing a business plan, financial packaging, procurement information, and many other sources," said David Baldwin, OIBDC project director.

Baldwin meets prospective clients at the Small Business Development Center, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, every third Friday of the month. Appointments can be made by calling (918) 458-0802.

Baldwin is also at Kaw tribal headquarters, Kaw City, on the second Tuesday of each month. Appointments can be made by calling (918) 250-5950.

Teresa Bradley, business development specialist, is at the Peoria tribal headquarters, Miami, on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Kimberly Lane, business development specialist, is at the Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech, Shawnee, on the second Friday of the month.

Appointments for Bradley and Lane can be made by calling (918) 250-5950.

Oklahoma University fall powwow

NORMAN — The University of Oklahoma American Indian Student Assocaition is hosting a fall benefit powwow Dec. 5 at the university campus field house.

For more information contact the AISA office at (405) 366-8775 or Shannon Freeman at (405) 325-3163.

Tribal office holiday closings

OKMULGEE — All Muscogee (Creek) Nation offices, health clinics, and the tribal housing authority will be closed Dec. 24 through 25 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 1.

Housing authority begins annual recertification process for owners

OKMULGEE — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations require that recertifications be conducted yearly for all persons participating in the mutual help home ownership programs. This recertification must be conducted even if there have been no changes in the homeowner's income.

The following documents are required for annual recertification with the Creek Nation Housing Authority. Please refer to this checklist. If there are questions, call 1-800-259-5050, toll free:

— verification of employment. Must contain the amount of hourly wage, number of hours worked, and date employment began. If hours vary, give year-to-date amount of salary. This verification must be on company stationery and signed by authorized company personnel;

— current year statements from agency providing financial assistance, such as: Social Security; Department of Human Services aid; pensions; annuities; etc. (Copies of check or check stubs will not be accepted.) Notarized statement from agencies providing financial assistance to the family are required;

— complete income tax return forms 1040, and W2 statements from the previous year for the head of household and spouse;

— year-to-date statement if receiving rents, royalties, or interest income;

— notarized statement of amount paid per week for child-care for children under 13, if one or more parent is employed or attending school full-time;

— copy of current semester enrollment for family members over 18 and attending school full time;

— employment agency statement listing amount of unemployment benefits received, or to be received, or letter of denial;

— provide at least one contact phone number, other than home number;

— copy of medical expenses for elders; and

— list of household members consisting of names, birthdates, place of birth, and social security numbers.

Annual recertification is a mandatory requirement in accordance with HUD regulations. Failure to comply could result in loss of home.

Caution can prevent home heating injuries

OKMULGEE — As cold weather increases, so does the need for home heating safety precaution says a government official.

Donna Anderson, injury prevention advocate for the U.S. Public Health Service, says to clean carefully chimney and stove pipe.

"Never burn green, unseasoned wood in your stove," Anderson said. "It causes an accumulation of an oily substance called creosote to form on the chimney flue lining.

"It only takes a spark to ignite creosote and cause a very dangerous fire."

Stoves and other heaters should be installed properly to avoid hazards. Common sense should prevail in other matters.

Stoves not installed properly could result in:

— death by smoke inhalation;

— ignition of floors or walls; and

— hot sparks igniting clothes.

Anderson said items like upholstered furniture, drapes, curtains, newspapers, wood, and other flammable objects should be kept a safe distance from any heater.

Safety tips for electric space heaters:

- **keep heater at a safe distance. Clothing can catch fire and cause severe burns. Drapes and other hanging items can also ignite;**
- **never place an electric space heater in the bathroom. To avoid electrical shock, never place an electric space heater near a bathtub, shower, or sink. Never touch an electric heater while wet; and**
- **use only a heavy duty extension cord compatible with electric space heater's listed current.**

Internal Revenue Service looking for Oklahoma income tax refund recipients

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 809 Oklahomans whose federal tax refund checks were returned to the IRS as undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service.

The refund checks are mostly from 1991 individual income tax returns, said IRS district director K.J. Sawyer.

When undeliverable tax return checks are returned to the IRS, attempts are made to deliver the checks, but some taxpayers cannot be located. Sawyer said this is generally caused by taxpayers moving and failing to leave a forwarding address or an incorrect or illegible addresses on their tax returns. To avoid this problem, use the peel-off label that comes with the tax package. If changes to the name or address are necessary, they can be made directly on the label.

Filing a federal income tax return electronically through a qualified "electronic filer" eliminates the possibility of non-delivery of a tax refund check — if the taxpayer elects to have the refund deposited to a bank account. This method also results in much quicker receipt of the refund by the taxpayer, Sawyer said.

Individuals who haven't received expected federal tax refund may call the IRS, toll-free, at 1-800-829-1040.

Employment administration opens branch

OKMULGEE — The tribal employment and training administration will establish a branch office to accommodate people wanting information about the adult vocational training and Job Training Partnership Act programs administered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The office will be on a pilot trial basis and will be open only on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be located in the Wes Watkins Vocational Institute beginning Dec. 3. The institute is located west of Wetumka on state highway 9.

Religion briefs

Thewarle Methodists host party

DUSTIN — Thewarle Methodist Church held a Halloween party for youth at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Barnett. Several youth were present and participated in a cake walk, apple bobbing, and other games. Beatrice Howell, Tommy Lowe, and Lisa Barnett won first, second, and third place respectively in the Halloween contest.

Seminole alliance gospel singing set

WEWOKA — The Seminole Nation Christian Ministerial Alliance Association has scheduled a fundraising gospel singing at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4. The singing will be held in the former Seminole Nation Bingo Hall at Fourth and Brown streets in Wewoka.

Tuskegee hosts appreciation dinner

EUFAULA — Tuskegee Baptist Church will host an appreciation dinner for pastors and deacons at 6 p.m., Dec. 11. The church is located six miles west of Eufaula on state highway 9 and three-fourths of a mile south on Mill Creek Bay Road. Rev. James McCombs is the pastor.

Indian Falls Creek banner contest

SEMINOLE — The Indian Falls Creek board of directors is sponsoring a logo contest designed specifically for Indian Falls Creek.

The banner should be four by six feet with an Indian Falls Creek theme. Entries may be sent to: Rev. Bill Barnett, P.O. Box 1361, Seminole, OK 74868. Deadline for entries is Dec. 5.

1993 Falls Creek personnel picked

DAVIS — The 1993 Indian Falls Creek camp personnel was selected at the Indian Falls Creek board of directors' meeting.

Rev. Eddie Lindsey is the camp pastor. Others on the staff are:

- Tyrone Smith, music director;
- Ricky Henson, children's church;
- Revs. Leslie Clark and Louis Ross, alternate camp pastors;
- Jesse Hernandez, music; and
- Rev. Jimmy Anderson, children's church.

State Indian Baptist paper available

SEMINOLE — The Oklahoma Indian Baptist newsletter, providing exclusive coverage of Indian evangelism, is now available for home delivery for $5 annually. Make checks payable to: Bill Barnett, P.O. Box 1361, Seminole, OK 74868.

Glorieta Baptist adds Creek to staff

OKLAHOMA CITY — Glorieta Baptist Church has hired Randy Colbert as its minister of education.

Colbert, a Eufaula native, attended Haskell Indian Junior College and Oklahoma Baptist University. He will be conferred with a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in December.

He is the son of Rev. James and Millie Colbert of Eufaula. The elder Colbert is pastor at Weogufkee Baptist Church.

Creeks to lead Baptist mission trips

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — The Native American Southern Baptist Fellowship is coordinating seven mission trips to Central America in 1993. Volunteers and donations are sought to finance Baptist mission work. The organization is led by Creek pastors Jimmy Anderson of Shawnee, and Ledtkey McIntosh of Dewar. For more information, or to make contributions, contact Russell Begaye at 4114 Celtic Drive, Arlington, TX 76017 or call (817) 478-9387.

Council tends to full agenda at October regular meeting

continued from page 7

sippi Band of Choctaws for the super collider project.

The bill also creates a tribal corporation — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Manufacturing Enterprises — as a legal corporate entity whose board members shall be composed of the chief, the National Council speaker or his designee, and the director of finance. A $50,000 appropriation was made to begin the corporation. **Voting against the bill were: Bear; McIntosh; Newton; Chupco; Roberts; D. Cahwee; Cleghorn; and Randall;**

— approved a resolution supporting the Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency reorganization plan. **Unanimous approval**;

— approved a resolution supporting the BIA's proposal to reorganize its Indian resource management and automatic data processing programs. **Unanimous approval**;

— approved five critical issues for the BIA tribal budget system planning for fiscal year 1995. **Unanimous approval**;

— adopted a position statement on issues relating to Indian education. **Unanimous approval**;

— confirmed Judith Pickering to the Eufaula boarding school board of education. **Abstaining were: Harvey Gilroy and Tom Pickering**;

— approved a bill urging the protection of the cultural and archaeological integrity of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala. **Unanimous approval**;

— adopted the elder and adult protection code. **Unanimous approval**;

— amended the gaming operations authority board bill (NCA 89- 65) to allow the principal chief to appoint all three members of the board with Council confirmation. **Voting against the bill were: Newton; Pickering; and Wilson;**

— approved recognition of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for reservation status. **Voting against the bill were: Chupco; Eugene Birdcreek; Jackson; Roberts; Litsey; Cleghorn; and Richard Berryhill; Abstaining was Gilroy;**

— appropriated $9,835 for the Eufaula Indian Youth Council. **Voting against the bill were: Chupco; Roberts; and Cleghorn. Abstaining was Charlie Coker;**

— approved reprogramming of aid to tribal government funds to the law enforcement program and judicial program. **Abstaining were: Roberts and Cleghorn;**

— authorized the Twin Hills Indian Community to auction a mobile trailer. ***Unanimous approval;***

— approved a resolution approving an agreement by Wyoming General, Inc. for televised monitored pull tab dispensers. **Unanimous approval**; and

— approved a resolution commending Tulsa District rep. Larry Bible for his work as Glenpool chief of police. **Unanimous approval.**

Tribal attorney general's office conducting investigation of Eufaula's community finances

continued from page 5

Tim Posey, assistant tribal attorney general, said concerned community members made Fife aware of the situation. Posey said the attorney general's office is currently conducting an investigation of the matter, but will not disclose information regarding possible findings.

Community, bingo, and smokeshop funds are alleged to have been mishandled by the following: Ken Tiger, chair; Susie Deere, vice-chair; Jena Loma, secretary; Millie Colbert, treasurer; Fran Lewis, board member; Judith Pickering, board member; Jimmy "Bunny" Hill, board member; Amanda Middleton, bingo hall manager; and Pat McGirt, smokeshop manager.

On Nov. 6 the plaintiffs and defendants agreed to:

- an audit of community financial records by an independent auditor;
- allow the community chair and treasurer authority to sign all community, bingo, and smokeshop checks;
- allow Middleton authorization to sign bingo checks;
- allow McGirt authorization to sign smokeshop checks;
- adopt accepted accounting procedures and financial controls for submission and review by an independent accountant;
- allow lawmenders to monitor community enterprises and meetings for not less than one month; and
- the dismissal of the case — after one month — upon the recommendation of the lawmenders and by order of the district court.

The court originally appointed McIntosh District rep. Tommy Pickering and community member Irena Wood lawmenders. They were substituted with Newton and Childers after the plaintiffs, defendants, and community members argued their appointment inappropriate. As Pickering and Wood are community members, plaintiff counsel Tim Posey's motion stated it would present a potential conflict of interest. The involved parties contended Newton and Childer's appointments to be more appropriate, Moore said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation obituaries

NORA BILLY

YARDEKA — Services for Nora Billy, 77, of Dustin, were held Oct. 28 at Yardeka Baptist Church. Rev. Mose Scott officiated the service.

She was born May 15, 1915 in Henryetta. Billy was a homemaker and a member of Hillabee Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Billy, in 1980.

Survivors include: four sons, Felix Gouge of Oklahoma City, Cecil Gouge of Tulsa, Johnny and Zerndorf Billy, both of Dustin; two daughters, Della Cherry of Holdenville and Sarah Wilson of Tulsa; two sisters, Betty Bear of Dustin and Nancy Jones of Henryetta; 19 granchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Burial was in the Harjo Cemetery, under the direction of Merritt Funeral Service.

CORA JIMBOY

OKEMAH — Services for Cora Jimboy, 80, were held Oct. 8 at Creek Chapel Methodist Church. Revs. Malcolm Tiger and Kenneth Deere officiated the service.

Jimboy was born July 10, 1912 in Okfuskee County. She was a wife, mother, homemaker, and member of Creek Chapel.

Jimboy was preceded in death by her husband, Jewett Jimboy, in February 1981.

She is survived by: three sons, Thomas and Wayne Jimboy, both of Lawrence, Kan. and Ed Jimboy of Lexington; three daughters, Louise Holden and Etta Pulliam, both of Lawrence, and Norma Beaver of Kansas City, Mo.; one sister, Bessie Jimboy of Okemah; 15 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews.

MARSEY HARJO

HENRYETTA — Marsey Harjo, 65, of Dustin died Nov. 4 in Henryetta. He was born Sept. 27, 1927 to Mitchell and Louise Tiger Harjo in Hanna.

Harjo married Florence Carr in Henryetta on Nov. 6, 1982. He was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1953. He belonged to Faith Baptist Church, Dustin. Harjo was baptized in April 1990.

Preceding him in death were: his parents, Mitchell and Louise Harjo; brother, Richmond Harjo; sister, Ruth Fields; and his wife, Florence Carr Harjo, who died with him in a Nov. 4 traffic accident.

Survivors include: three daughters, Estelline Harjo, Sue Ann Harjo, and Naomi Ruth Harjo, all of Palo Alto, Calif; two sons, Billy Joe Harjo of Kenwood, Calif. and Daniel Harjo of Santa Clara, Calif.; three brothers, Christopher Harjo of Henryetta, Albert Harjo of Okemah, and Sandea Harjo of Dallas, Texas; one sister, Fannie Mae Johnson of Compton, Calif.; 12 grandchildren; many nieces; nephews; and a host of loving friends and relatives.

Pallbearers were: Noah Tiger; Phillip Harjo; Huey Buckley; Ace Buckner; Nathaniel Harjo; and Jackson Harjo Jr.

FLORENCE HARJO

SASAKWA — Services for Florence Carr Harjo, 64, of Dustin, were held Nov. 7 at Bird Creek Baptist Church, Sasakwa. Revs. Bryant Jesse and Richmond Carr officiated.

Harjo was born June 23, 1928, in Hanna, to Robert Carr and Wisey Lowe Cully and died Nov. 4 in Henryetta.

She was married to Marsey Harjo Nov. 6, 1982, in Henryetta. She was a homemaker and a member of Faith Baptist Church, Dustin.

Harjo was baptized Sept. 13, 1992.

Preceding her in death were: her father and mother; and her husband, Marsey Harjo, who died with her in a Nov. 4 traffic accident.

Survivors include: two daugthers, Irene Harjo Thompson of Henryetta, Yannah Waterdown Schrum of McAlester; one son, Willie Proctor of Tulsa; two brothers, Richmond Carr of Checotah and Wallace Cully of Ada; seven sisters, Beatrice Deere of Tulsa, Bertha Tonemoh, and Martha Carr of Oklahoma City, Louise Harjo of Sasakwa, Evelyn Puntka of Shawnee, Sue Givens of Konawa, and Edna Glenn of Wichita, Kan,; eleven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Interment was in the Vamoosa Cemetery, Sasakwa.

DAVID LOGAN POWELL

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for David Logan Powell, 72, of Okmulgee, were held Oct. 29 at Newtown Methodist Church. The Revs. Thomas Long and Alex Lowe officiated. Powell died Oct. 26 in Okmulgee. Powell was born Nov. 6, 1919, in Okmulgee, to Topley and Sarah Powell. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army. He retired from the City of Okmulgee in July 1982, having worked for the street department as a heavy equipment operator.

Powell is survived by: four sons, Rick Powell of Okmulgee, Freeland Powell of Tulsa, David Powell Jr. of Pawnee, and Rusty Powell of Preston; four daughters, Sharon Whitecloud and Peggy Powell, both of Okmulgee, Anita Sue Powell of Glenpool, and Pam Palmer of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two brothers, Curtis Simmers and Abraham Simmers, both of Okmulgee; five sisters, Esther Van Woundenberg of Glenpool, Rebecca Autaubo, Priscilla Kahbeah, and Betsy Factor, all of Okmulgee, and Sarah Joshua of Holdenville; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A prayer service was held Oct. 27 in the Cantrell Ivory Chapel of the Kelley Funeral Home, Okmulgee. A supper was provided at the Powell family home Oct. 28.

Pallbearers were: Norman Daniel; Johnny Wilson; Russell Johnson; Billy McLemore; Tommy Joe Grayson; and Tuffy Roberts.

Honorary pallbearers were: Lax Johnson; Ernie Titsworth; Robert Freeman; Aaron Berryhill; Solomon Kelly; Phillip Coon; and Tom Washington.

NEWTON FIXICO

OKEMAH — Services for Newton Allen Fixico, 39, of Okemah, were held Nov. 9 at Creek Chapel Methodist Church. Fixico died Nov. 6. Revs. Malcolm and Felix Tiger officiated the service.

Fixico was born May 28, 1953 to Woodrow and Jennie Jimboy Fixico, in Claremore, and was raised by Bennie and Bessie Jimboy of Okemah.

Fixico graduated from Oklahoma City Central High School in 1971. He was a deacon at Creek Chapel.

He was preceded in death by his father, Woodrow Fixico.

Survivors include: his biological mother, Jennie Factor; his parents, Bennie and Bessie Jimboy of Okemah; six brothers, Jay and Reubin Jimboy, both of Oklahoma City, Lonnie Jimboy of Tulsa, Jacob Fixico of Wetumka, George and Gilbert Fixico, both of Okemah; four sisters, Augustine Blackowl, Rena Grant, Lou Jean Tilley, and Helen Fixico, all of Okemah; one half-sister, Betty Barnett of Weleetka; several nieces; and nephews.

WATIE BARNETT

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Watie Barnett, 65, of Sapulpa, were held Nov. 13 at Pickett Chapel Methodist Church with Rev. Earl Dunson officiating.

Barnett died Nov. 9 at his home. He was borm July 31, 1927 in Sapulpa and was a life-long resident. He was a member of Rock Creek Methodist Church. Barnett was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include: his mother, Lou Anna Barnett of Sapulpa; son, Timothy Barnett of Taft; daughters, Josephine Grimes of Edmond, Pamela Barnett of Glenpool, and Rebecca Barnett of Kellyville; brother, Harrison Barnett of Sapulpa; sisters, Annie Watashe and Jerri Kinsey, both of Sapulpa, Mary Watashe of Kellyville, Nancy Jo Harry of Duck Creek; and 13 grandchildren.

1 Peter 3:8 through 13

8. Espokat ete'm merret vkerrickv hvmkusen omvlkatskat ete'm ocvkes; est em merruset, en yvmaskuset, etecakkake ete'nokecvke omen vnokecvkes;

9. Holwakan holwvken vyoposkekot, momet tvkleckvn pvlken tvklecekot; momis pvlhvmken merkv opunvkv min punvyvkes, Hesaketvmeset heyvn ec ohhuehvkvtet omekv, ohmerretv epucasatskvren.

10. Hiyomet omekv, estit hesaketv vnokecetv, momet nettv herakan hecetvn komen omat, holwakat enkvpvken e tulaswvn, momet mvkeretvn punayvkekaren e cukhvrpen en hvlvtvranet omekv:

11. Holwakan enkvpaket, heran momecekvs; herkvn hopoyet, vcvkvyekvs.

12. Hiyomet omekv, este fvccakan Pucase en renakvt oh ocen, e hvckot em mekusvpkv taken en haukaket os; momis holwvke momecakan Pucase e turofvt vnrvpet os.

Defense attorney says claims about commitment unfounded

by Jim Wolfe

WEWOKA — Robert Mitchell drags deep from a filterless cigarette while surrounded by his family, a photographer, a reporter, and a sheriff's deputy.

Words come slowly. It's an awkward, uncomfortable scene as Mitchell struggles with the turn of events that have changed his life.

The state of Oklahoma wants to certify the 15 year old as an adult and have him stand trial for the death of his neighbor, Myrtle McGehee.

Seminole County judge Lee Stillwell ruled that Mitchell does not have the psychological make-up to be certified as an adult. The state however, is appealing that decision.

For Mitchell, his family, and friends, justice in the system is slow. Hence their concern for his welfare.

His defense attorney, Robert Pyron, says the state has no case against Mitchell. Yet, Mitchell remains in a McAlester juvenile facility awaiting his fate.

His family and friends are concerned that he will not get a fair trial because he is Indian and his attorney made political contributions to William Peterson — the prosecuting attorney.

Pyron dismisses the ideas.

Pyron says fear about his commitment to Mitchell's defense should be gone now that he has won the first round.

"Anyone that heard the arguments I made [at the certification hearing] would feel that I was not, in any way, giving in to the state.

"The fact is we beat the state as far as I am concerned," Pyron said.

Pyron says his contributions to Peterson's successful 1990 campaign for Seminole County district attorney have no bearing on his defense.

"I make a lot of contributions to lots of political candidates," Pyron said. "Just because I made a contribution doesn't mean, in any way, that I am limited as a defender to the people I represent.

"I don't want to overemphasize that there has been any racial prejudice. The district attorney is just doing his job. White, black, or Indian — the fact is a lady's been killed."

Though he expects that Mitchell will be acquitted eventually, Pyron believes Mitchell is a victim of psychological neglect and that many of the problems Mitchell must deal with outside a court of law have existed for some time.

"The system — the Indian, state, and federal programs — all failed to help this juvenile," Pyron said. "Possibly, that's why he is in the situation he's in."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board seeks addresses

OKMULGEE — The following is a list of people that should update their addresses with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board to insure delivery of voter information. The list is printed in compliance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election code and as a public service of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

Mark S. Adams, Okmulgee
Darren E. Anderson, Okmulgee
Karen L. Anderson, Okmulgee
Michael J. Anderson, Okmulgee
Rollie L. Anderson, Okmulgee
Susan D. Anderson, Okmulgee
Claude M. Archer, Morris
Ina Artussee, Morris
Sheri L. Aubrey, Okmulgee
Christopher T. Aultman, Okmulgee
Joe R. Barnett, Okmulgee
Monte N. Barnett, Okmulgee
Theada J. Barrett, Okmulgee
Clara C. Bear, Okmulgee
Ivan E. Bear, Okmulgee
Janice F. Bear, Okmulgee
Betty J. Beaver, Okmulgee
William R. Bell, Okmulgee
Alfred L. Berryhill, Okmlgee
Eric F. Berryhill, Okmulgee
Melvern Bevenue, Okmulgee
Donna F. Bird, Okmulgee
Normagean Berryhill, Okmulgee
Cynthia S. Brown, Okmulgee
Freda S. Buck, Okmulgee
Jimmy Buckley, Okmulgee
Monty L. Bunny, Okmulgee
Mamie Cameron, Okmulgee
Marvin Buckley, Morris
Jan M Burgess, Morris
Lloyd E. Burgess, Okmulgee
Barbara K. Caywood, Henryetta
Pamela J. Chamberlain, Henryetta
Perry J. Cheek, Okmulgee
Daniel R. Checotah, Okmulgee
Michael R. Christiansen, Okmulgee
Jerry E. Cox, Beggs
Inez M. Crockett, Okmulgee
Jeffrey W. Culley, Okmulgee
Dorothy L. Curry, Okmulgee
Ostennia M. Curry, Okmulgee
Allen H. Dailey, Okmulgee
William Daniel, Okmulgee
Stanley J. Davis, Mounds
Zenas T. Dowling, Schulter
Mona F. Dunn, Henryetta
Jimmy L. Edmundson, Dewar
Jennie Epperley, Okmulgee
Bonnie L. Factor, Okmulgee
Lydia Factor, Henryetta
Helen M. Fish, Okmulgee
Laquita Fish, Okmulgee
Lewis B. Fish, Okmulgee
Billy Joe Fixico, Okmulgee
Barbara Frazier, Dewar
Bobby Frye, Henryetta
Fannie Frye, Henryetta
Johnny Frye, Henryetta
Lee Frye, Okmulgee
Marion Frye, Henryetta
Patricia A. Frye, Okmulgee
Patricia A. Frye, Henryetta
Lonell E. Fultz, Okmulgee
Joseph R. Gilroy, Henryetta
Michael S. Gilroy, Henryetta
Kenneth G. Goodvoice, Okmulgee
Timothy Goodvoice, Okmulgee
Atheline Gurtler, Henryetta
Leona M. Hale, Okmulgee
Lisa E. Hamilton, Okmulgee
Cynthia L. Harjo, Okmulgee
Kimberly A. Harjo, Okmulgee
Naomi R. Harjo, Okmulgee
Kathryn L. Harvey, Okmulgee
Kathaleen Hawkins, Okmulgee
Elouise Haynes, Morris
Leo L. Hicks, Henryetta
Liza M. Hicks, Henryetta
Clifton C. Hill, Okmulgee
Chester H. Hodge, Okmulgee
Dennis R. Hodge, Okmulgee
Jesse W. Hodge, Okmulgee
Richard E. Hodge, Okmulgee
Betty A. Hogshooter, Okmulgee
Barbara K. Holata, Okmulgee
Mary A. Holcomb, Okmulgee
Maggie W. Holman, Okmulgee
Betty B. Huddart, Morris
Gary Hudgens, Okmulgee
Elizabeth E.Ingram, Henryetta
Virginia E. Ingram, Schulter
Janet M. Jackson, Okmulgee
Vicki L. Jeremiah, Okmulgee
Emma Jordan, Okmulgee
Michael L. Keele, Okmulgee
Charles E. Kelly, Okmulgee
Tonya L. Kelly, Okmulgee
John D. Kepley, Okmulgee
Patricia A. King, Henryetta
Billy W. Kolakowski, Okmulgee
Dennis W. Kolakowski, Okmulgee
Daniel N. Lambertson, Okmulgee
Simeon Lee, Henryetta
Winey Lee, Henryetta
James H. Lerblance, Morris
Helen J. Livingston, Henryetta
Brenda K. Long, Okmulgee
Andrew Lowe, Okmulgee
Donna M. McCain, Henryetta
Johnnie A. McDaniel, Okmulgee
Rocky R. McIntosh, Okmulgee
Judy K. McKee, Okmulgee
Michael Marshall, Okmulgee
Carolyn J. Meeks, Okmulgee
William A. Melson, Okmulgee
Karen L. Layne, Okmulgee
William R. Lee, Okmulgee
Gloria LeGrand, Okmulgee
William P. Litsey, Henryetta
Brenda Livey, Okmulgee
Ronald Lowe, Okmulgee
Jeffery S. McCutcheon, Mounds
Guy M. Long, Okmulgee
Charley McGertt, Okmulgee
Donald R. McKay, Henryetta
Judy M. McVeigh, Morris
Jerry W. Mayes, Henryetta
Jake B. Meeks, Okmulgee
Tampia Mitchell, Okmulgee
Anthony W. Monahwee, Okmulgee
Yommie L. Monahwee, Okmulgee
Mona J. Morgan, Okmulgee
Nancy K. Munds, Morris
Tammy L. Obney, Okmulgee
Carolyn L. Opperman, Okmulgee
Vicky Payne, Dewar
Katherine E. Polen, Okmulgee
Lydi J. Powell, Okmulgee
Linda F. Price, Beggs
Della M. Proctor, Henryetta
Peggy L. Ramos, Henryetta
Marilyn J. Rice, Mounds
Ida L. Roberts, Okmulgee
Michael J. Monahwee, Okmulgee
Louis W. Morgan, Morris
Richard J. Morgan, Okmulgee
Vada L. Nichwander, Mounds
Fanny L. O'Neal, Henryetta
Michael J. Payne, Okmulgee
Dorothy R. Pinezaddleby, Morris
Karen J. Powell, Dewar
Debra K. Price, Morris
Jamima L. Primeaux, Henryetta
Michael A. Raefield, Okmulgee
Della M. Revis, Okmulgee
Robert B. Rich, Dewar
Randy Roberts, Okmulgee
Terry L. Roberts, Okmulgee
Leigh A. Robison, Okmulgee
Stacey J. Sanders, Okmulgee
Stephen D. Sevier, Okmulgee
Jimmy R. Skinner, Dewar
R.C. Smith, Morris
Robin Soweka, Henryetta
Perryman Sumka, Henryetta
Elsie J. Tecumseh, Henryetta
Bonita K. Taylor, Okmulgee
Randy D. Thomas, Henryetta
Kenneth S. Tiger, Okmulgee
Louis Y. Toombs, Henryetta
Mary M. Thornburg, Beggs
Ida M. Yaden, Beggs
Charles D. Robison, Okmulgee
Christine M. Rogers, Okmulgee
Richard W. Scott, Okmulgee
Kimberly K. Siedlik, Okmulgee
Gerald W. Smith, Okmulgee
Sylvanna G. Smith, Okmulgee
Johnson Tarpalechee, Morris
Tony G. Taylor, Okmulgee
Rita C. Spottedbird, Okmulgee
Elouise Thomas, Okmulgee
Geraldine Thompson, Henryetta
Robert A. Tiger, Mounds
John S. Tiger, Okmulgee
Mary J. Tulsa, Morris
Ida M. Vaughn, Morris
David L. Washington, Okmulgee
Sharon K. Whitehead, Beggs
Virginia A. Wilson, Okmulgee
Anniel D. Winn, Okmulgee
Roosevelt Yardy, Okmulgee
Sherman W. White, Okmulgee
Lucinda S. Wilson, Haskell
Colleen C. Williams, Mounds
Steven M. Woodfield, Okmulgee

Principal chief reviews year in holiday message

continued from page 2

as a challenge - one which could benefit mutual help homeowners.

I have been truly impressed by the motivation, competence, and cooperation of many people on these various projects. To me, we are in the initial stages of a job development program where Creek people can work when given the opportunity. Often, a few pessimists have limited tribal government by setting low expectations. Our people can and will achieve anything we set our sights on.

Antagonists have said 'we couldn't get the HUD comprehensive rehabilitation grant' and 'we couldn't build the Muskogee bingo hall.' Obviously, they were wrong. Creeks are now performing the work, which to me is success for our Creek government.

Although a number of items we're working on — policies and procedures, a tribal citizens' survey, and organization planning — are not readily visible, rest assured this work will result in significant benefits to our citizens in time. Additionally, strategies are being studied for outreach services in the community. Our objective is that every citizen have better access to tribal services.

Another important issue being addressed is the preparation of a tribal agenda to be presented to president-elect Bill Clinton. It is my feeling that proactive endeavors like this are essential for being a more effective government. Too long we have let non-tribal entities dictate what is best for us. I guarantee that I will continue to let Creeks decide what is best for Creek people.

Since my first day in office, the work has been very demanding and strenuous. The Creator has, however, given me the strength to serve. Many capable employees have committed more of their time and many citizens have offered their support — this has been a daily inspiration. It is a pleasure to serve Creek people.

Finally, my family and I send our warmest regards for a pleasant and enjoyable holiday. May the beauty of the season bring you many joys.

Tiger show moves to earlier time

TULSA — "Inside Native America," a public affairs program hosted by George Tiger and produced by Tulsa television station KOTV, will now be broadcast at 6:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of every month. Tiger of Okmulgee, is also an Okmulgee District National Council representative.

Mitchell family maintains innocence and continues support for Robert

continued from page 3

contends Mrs. Mitchell.

Mitchell believes his son is innocent also.

"Everytime I see him, I ask him, 'did you do it?' He won't blink; he'll say, 'no I didn't do it. I was trying to help. I feel like I've been used because I was trying to help that woman,'" Mitchell said.

His mother, Christine Lindsey, does not think he is guilty, either. She believes race is a strike against him in an Anglo-American judicial system and fears he won't get a fair trial.

"Every time Indian people [are suspect], they want to put them in prison right away."

Detained at Pittsburgh County Detention Center, Robert said he is scared, but holding up with the support of his family.

Family says boy respects elders

The Mitchell family contends Robert is a compassionate boy - respectful of elders.

Mitchell said his son is known to have helped elder members of Mrs. Mitchell's church with tasks such as fetching water or walking them to the restrooms. He was always willing to assist elders when they needed his help, Mrs. Mitchell said. "And he [has] always been with me when I was sick, and cooked for me, and [took] my blood test."

Mitchell

Robert respects his elders because he was raised by his grandmother in an Indian environment, said neighbor Ted Underwood.

Underwood, also one of Robert's defense fund organizers, believes he has no chance of a fair trial in Seminole County. Because only circumstantial evidence exists, Underwood believes county district attorney William Peterson is attempting to convict Robert and use him as a stepping stone for political aspirations.

Underwood said Robert's only hope is publicity and media that will scrutinize the judicial system in Seminole County.

BIA, Creek Nation intervene

Wewoka agency Bureau of Indian Affairs social worker Jackie Jackson and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration case worker Janice Hanun are among those who were subpoenaed to testify at his recent certification hearing.

When Robert was expelled from Strother Public Schools in November 1991, Jackson intervened. After being suspended for the destruction of property, Jackson secured counseling resources for him.

Robert also was suspended in February 1992 for fighting. Jackson said the tribal children and family services administration interceded during the February suspension.

Kent T. Fields, tribal children and family services administration manager, refused comment.

Jackson said Robert's behavior is typical of adolescents. Outside of the fact he was having socialization problems common among youth, Robert is quite capable when he applies himself, Jackson said.

"He just seems to have had some problems getting along with specific students."

Underwood agrees with Jackson. "He's pretty much like other kids."

He's been involved in a few fights at school, "but [nothing] to brand him as a murderer."

Mitchell declared juvenile, remains in detention center

continued from page 3

Peterson said the appeal process could take "a long time," but believes he will prosecute Mitchell eventually.

Peterson also said the certification appeal delays any resolution of the case.

The state believes McGehee was stabbed to death sometime between 5:30 p.m., Sept. 3 and 2:30 a.m., Sept. 4. Mitchell and his grandmother were McGehee's neighbors in the Little community in Seminole County.

According to published reports in the Sept. 6 edition of The Seminole Producer, Mitchell told Seminole County Sheriff Charles Sisco that he saw the body after investigating house lights on in the McGehee home around 2:30 a.m.

Mitchell became the primary suspect and was arrested later. He has been remanded to the Pittsburg County Detention Center in McAlester.

Pyron said the state's only evidence is circumstantial.

"There is no murder weapon, no motive, and certainly no evidence [to prosecute Mitchell successfully]."

Mitchell will remain at the juvenile treatment center throughout the appeal process — possibly longer.

The evidence and evaluation presented in Mitchell's defense during his certification hearing may also be used to keep him in the state's juvenile system, Pyron said.

"The same psychological evaluation that saved him from [possible] life in prison, may also be used to show that he has severe problems and needs to remain under [state] supervision," Pyron said.

"It cuts both ways."

Second chief reflects on past year, extends her holiday greetings

by Shelly Crow, second chief

As the traditional season for giving thanks approaches, I find myself reflecting upon the events of the past year.

I am thankful, humbled, and honored to have been elected to office by the people of the great Muscogee Nation.

Serving as second chief has opened many doors for me. It has made me aware of problems our people face and enabled me to help as best I can. Working with our principal chief, National Council, and others too numerous to mention - a great deal has been accomplished.

I realize we are striving to achieve many objectives, but with the Creator's blessing, we can accomplish anything.

Although indigenous to this country, the Muscogee people have endured much trial and tribulation at the hands of the federal government. Let us pray that president-elect Bill Clinton has the knowledge to help all people and be fair in treaties made by his forefathers and our ancestors. I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

For country and freedom I am grateful.
For the opportunity to serve,
I am proud too.
For co-workers, friends, and family -
I truly appreciate you.

For the bounty provided by the Creator
- things I take for granted each day -
may I take time to witness the sunrise,
and see promise in each shining ray.

And now as the season draws near,
I reflect on the scenes long past,
and offer my thanks to our Maker,
and pray that our progress will last.

If I could make a wish and have it
come true,
I'd ask that our people prosper
and be -
striving ever to attain greater heights -
a people united, strong, and free.

A view from the Talimena drive. photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Scene

Governor addresses 500 years conference

Second chief Shelly Crow presents a gift to Oklahoma Gov. David Walters at "The Next 500 Years "conference.

Veterans honored at Okmulgee nutrition site

These veterans were recognized at the Okmulgee elderly nutrition site's Veterans Day dinner.

Miss Creek Nation at Council Oak

Miss Creek Nation Leigh Ann Downing speaks to the audience at the Council Oak ceremony.

photos by Stephanie Berryhill, Gerald Wofford, and Jim Wolfe